

D. M. 13.

Indian Papers,
N^{os} IV. V. VI. VII.

LIST

PAPER IV.—(AFGHANISTAN.)

CORRESPONDENCE

PAPER V.—(AFGHANISTAN.)

RELATING TO

AFFGHANISTAN

AND THE

OCCUPATION OF KARRAK.

(*Presented by Her Majesty's Command.*)

Ordered to be printed 26th March 1839.

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IV.

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

No. 1.

Lord AUCKLAND to the SECRET COMMITTEE.—(With Two Enclosures.)

(Extract.)

Simla, 22d May 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to submit herewith Copies of Despatches from Captain Burnes on political Employ in Cabool, from which your Honourable Committee will perceive that the Increase of Russian and Persian Influence in Affghanistan, and the Impression of the certain Fall of Herat to the Persian Army, have induced the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan to avow and to insist upon Pretensions for the Cession to him, by Maharajah Runjeet Sing, of the Peshawur Territory, and to take other Steps which are tantamount to the Rejection of the Friendship and good Offices of the British Government; and have in consequence led to the Retirement of Captain Burnes from the Territories of Cabool.

A Minute recorded by me on the 12th instant, previously to the Receipt of the latest Despatches, Copy of which is herewith forwarded, will put your Honourable Committee in possession of my Views upon the general Aspect of our Relations with the States on our North-western Frontier; and I also append a Note of Instructions addressed to Mr. Macnaghten, Secretary in the Political Department, on the Occasion of his being deputed on a Mission to the Maharajah of Lahore.

It will be evident to your Honourable Committee, on Perusal of the above Documents, that the Emergency of Affairs may compel me to act without awaiting any Intimation of your Views upon the Events which have recently occurred in Persia and Affghanistan. But it will still be most satisfactory to me to be placed, at the earliest possible Period, in full Possession of your general Opinions and Instructions.

In anticipation of the Possibility of such a Contingency, I have deemed it expedient to put Matters in train by previous Negotiation, in order to render whatever Measures of direct Interference I may be obliged to adopt as effective as possible.

Demi-official Intelligence has been received of the Arrival of Captain Burnes at Peshawur on the 7th or 8th instant; and there is every Hope, that in the Conference between Mr. Macnaghten and the Maharajah, at which Captain Burnes has been directed to attend, valuable Assistance may be given by that Officer, who is so intimately acquainted with the existing State of Parties in Affghanistan.

P.S.—Subsequent to the Preparation of the above Despatch, I received the Communications from Captain Burnes (and have caused the Reply to be addressed to him), which Papers are noted as Nos. 17. to 21. of the accompanying Enclosures.

I beg leave to draw the Attention of your Honourable Committee to the unequivocal Demonstrations therein noted, of the Extent to which Russia is carrying her System of Interference on the very Threshold of the British Indian Possessions.

I need not repeat my Anxiety, even though the rapid March of Events may oblige me to act without your Instructions, to be favoured with a Communication of your Views upon the present Crisis at the earliest possible Opportunity.

IV.

No. 1.

Lord Auckland
to the
Secret Committee,
22d May 1838.

IV.

First Enclosure in No. 1.

No. 1.
 Lord Auckland
 to the
 Secret Committee,
 22d May 1838.

Enclosure No. 1.

Minute by the Governor General.

Simla, 12 May 1838.

In this important Crisis of Affairs in Affghanistan I would wish to place on record a brief Retrospect of our past Policy, and to resolve, with as much Certainty as is at present possible, what Measures it may be proper to adopt under different future Contingencies. It is the more necessary to endeavour, at this Time, to propose to ourselves some clear Plans of future Action, as a Deputation is about to proceed to Maharajah Runjeet Sing, headed by my principal Secretary, Mr. Macnaghten; and as it will, no Doubt, be sought by that Chief to elicit some unreserved Expression of our Views, so it will be of the greatest Advantage to avail ourselves of this Occasion for the Purpose both of confirming in his Mind the Conviction of the complete Identity of Interest between the Two Governments, and of ascertaining his Sentiments in return, and so guiding our Proceedings as to secure to the utmost his cordial Co-operation.

Of our past Policy it may be sufficient to say, that the Considerations which dictated it were direct and obvious, and that it is yet very possible that, although the ambitious Temper of the Chief of Cabool has disappointed the Expectations under which our political Intercourse with him was opened, effectual Benefit may have been derived from it.

The distracted Condition of Affghanistan, from the open and acrimonious Contests between the Sikhs and the Chief of Cabool on the one Side, and between the Rulers of Candahar and Herat on the other, and from the total Absence of any Feeling of Harmony and mutual Confidence among the different Branches of the Barukzye Family, had been the immediate Cause of Proffers of Submission to Tehran, and of the Invitation of Persian and Russian Influence into the Country. It was our plain Course to seek to remove this Inducement to Connexions so prejudicial to us, by the Exercise of our counter Influence in order to reconcile these Differences, and to convince all Parties of the common Danger which would arise to them from Persian Encroachment. It will be remembered at the same Time, that in dealing with these Difficulties we had also to deal with Engagements of Treaty binding us not to interfere in Wars between Persians and Affghans, and with the Position of Mr. M'Neill, who, mainly guided by Instructions from Home, and acting as much in reference to European as to Indian Politics, was endeavouring to sustain the tottering Influence of his Country with the Court of Persia. Yet there was every Reason to believe that Opportunity would be afforded, notwithstanding these Difficulties, for the beneficial Operation of such a Policy, and Mr. M'Neill was far from anticipating that any effective Advance could be made upon Herat by the Shah of Persia in the Season then current. There was, indeed, at the Time a reasonable Probability that that Advance might be altogether prevented when the Hope of Assistance from the Eastern Portion of Affghanistan was taken away.

The rapid and successful Advance of Persia in the Investment of Herat, and the well-judged Diversion by which the Shah has been able to cut off, apparently, every Hope of Succour to the Place from any of the friendly Tribes in Toorkistan, have, unfortunately, intervened to baffle all our Calculations. These Circumstances, the Presence of a Russian Agent at Cabool, and his own restless and unaccommodating Spirit, have led Dost Mahomed Khan to reject the Terms which we held out to him, of Security in his actual Possessions (which are all to which he has any fair Claim, or that have ever been subject to his Authority), and I have been in consequence compelled to relinquish the Hope of coming to any good Understanding with him, such as would warrant us in placing the least Reliance on his Adherence to our Interests.

The Failure, therefore, of our Negotiations, in regard to their ultimate and main Object of general Union and Pacification, must be admitted; yet I cannot doubt that our Intervention has been most usefully instrumental up to the Date of the latest Despatches in preventing the Impression even of Goodwill at Cabool to the Persian Enterprise, and in confirming the Chiefs of Candahar in their Resolution to afford no Support to it. Unhappily the Absence of Aid from these Chiefships to the Persian Attack may be insufficient to save Herat; but that it has been, in itself, an Advantage to Herat in the Contest can

scarcely be questioned. The Assistance in Supplies alone which might have been furnished from Candahar would have been of the utmost Value to the Persian Army.

More direct Aid to Herat has not been in our Power; direct Interference, even if the Difficulties of Time and Distance could have been surmounted, would have been opposed to the positive Engagement of Treaty. Arms in the Hands of the present Affghan Chiefs of Cabool and Candahar would, could they have been given by us, more probably have been used against Sikhs than against Persians. Candahar would not move but in concert with Cabool. Cabool, we have found, would not move but on the Condition of the Cession of Peshawur; and Armaments and Subsidies to Dost Mahomed Khan and his Brothers would, especially while such Pretensions were advanced as regards Peshawur, have been attended with the absolute Certainty of wholly destroying the Cordiality of our Alliance with the most powerful and valuable of our Friends, Maharajah Runjeet Sing, while they would have involved us in Responsibilities that could in no Degree be compensated by any Aid from Chiefs so weak, and divided by so many Jealousies and Distractions.

Captain Burnes has now been desired to retire from Cabool as soon as there is reasonable Certainty as to the Fate of the Expedition against Herat, because it is felt that, under the best Circumstances, any Professions which Dost Mahomed Khan might make of Submission to our Wishes would be only hollow and insincere. Whatever may be the Course of our future Proceedings, it is clear that the Presence of a British Negociator at Cabool excites this Chief to intrigue in support of extravagant Pretensions; and our continued Intercourse with him would lead to no real Advantage, while it might, to a greater or less Degree, compromise us with the Court of Lahore.

To proceed now to the Consideration of our future Policy in the different Results which may attend the Attack upon Herat, I would first remark, that since the Transmission of my Despatch to the Honourable the Secret Committee, in which I stated that it was not then my Intention to oppose the hostile Advance of Persia upon Candahar and Cabool, whether by Arms or Money, Circumstances have occurred which may materially modify my Views; for Russian Agents have now put themselves prominently forward in aid of the Designs of Persia, and we could scarcely with Prudence allow this new and more formidable Element of Disorder and Intrigue to be established without Opposition on our Frontiers. The extraordinary Excitement which has been produced in the public Mind, as well in the Punjaub as in Affghanistan, in consequence of the Approach of the Persian Power, is also a Signal to us of the Mischief which might arise were that Power to acquire a settled Authority or Influence over all the Affghan Countries.

Herat may yet escape, and in that Event it will behove the British Government seriously to consider whether Means ought not to be taken to guard it against future similar Attacks. It would be no Violation of our Treaty with Persia to give Strength to Herat as we have done to Persia; to advise her by the Presence of a resident Agent, to discipline her Troops, to fortify her Defences, and to give her Facilities for procuring efficient Supplies of Artillery and Military Stores. Indeed Herat might well complain, that while we are bound to abstain from Interference between them, we have yet supplied ample Means of Offence to Persia, but have left Herat in the Day of Need to her own Resources. I need not, however, dwell further on this Point at present. It would remain in the Case to determine how to act towards the Chiefs of Cabool and Candahar. Herat having escaped, both might be expected to be profuse in their Declarations of Devotion to us. But Dost Mahomed Khan has shown himself to be so disaffected and ambitious, that with him, at least, we could form no satisfactory Connexion. Although he might not, under such Circumstances, furnish us with Grounds for Measures of direct Hostility against him, he must yet be regarded as a Person of more than equivocal Feelings, occupying a Position in which it is of the first Importance to the Tranquillity of our Territories that we should have assured Friends.

Should Herat fall, and this, as it is I fear the most probable Event, so must it principally engage our Attention, we must prepare to see the rapid Advance of Persian Influence, if not of her Arms and direct Power, towards India. In such a State of Things it were much to be desired that we had some distinct Instructions from the Home Authorities for our Guidance, as our Measures

IV.

No. 1.

Lord Auckland
to the
Secret Committee,
22d May 1838.

Enclosure No. 1.

may involve the national Interests in reference both to Persia and Russia. But, on the other hand, Time may be very precious to us, and that may be accomplished with Facility at an early Period, which may afterwards be attended with much Difficulty when Opportunity has been given for Growth and Consolidation of adverse Influences. One thing is to my Mind very certain, that we ought not to suffer Persian and Russian Influence quietly to fix themselves along our entire Western Frontier, and that it is, in fairness, open to us to take the high Ground with Persia of her whole Demeanour having lately been estranged and unfriendly to the British Nation,—of her Schemes in Affghanistan being in the universal Belief combined with Designs of Aggression upon India,—and of her Advance, therefore, in the mere Lust of Conquest, to a Position which would enable her to take up a threatening Attitude towards our Indian Possessions, being a Measure not merely of Attack on the Affghan Independence with which we might be restricted by Treaty from interfering, but one injurious in Intention and in Effect to ourselves, which we are warranted in repelling by all Means in our Power. Other Circumstances may occur to strengthen further this Language of direct and open Opposition to Persia, as for instance, if Satisfaction be not afforded to our Government for the Insults offered to Mr. M'Neill's Gholam, — Insults which the Persian Government has attempted to justify.

Second Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 2. Mr. Deputy Secretary Torrens to W. H. Macnaghten, Esq., Secretary to the the Government of India, in the Political Department, with the Governor General.

(Extract.)

Simla, 15th May 1838.

In any Discussion upon the present Policy of the Indian Government, you may remark that the Governor General has no Appetite for Wars and Conquest; that the Boundaries of the East Indian Empire have seemed to him to be amply extensive; and that he would rather conquer the Jungle with the Plough, plant Villages where Tigers have possession, and spread Commerce and Navigation upon Waters which have hitherto been barren, than take One Inch of Territory from his Neighbours, or sanction the March of Armies for the Acquisition of Kingdoms; yet that he feels strong in Military Means, and that with an Army of 100,000 Men under European Officers in Bengal, and with 100,000 more whom he might call to his Aid from Madras and Bombay, he can with Ease repel every Aggression, and punish every Enemy; yet he looks on this Army only as a Security for Peace, and as an Instrument of preserving in their Integrity the present Territories and the Dignity of the East India Company. In discussing the Dangers to which the British Government may be exposed, you may remark that, for Enemies from the Westward, the Sikhs and the English are as one Nation, and their Armies, acting in the Field together, would be invincible. To the North is Nepaul, and it may be stated that the Governor General is well aware of the Dissensions which have prevailed in that Kingdom, and of its present distracted State. He knows that every divided Country is dangerous to its Neighbours, and that designing Men are active in Endeavours to raise their consequence at home, by exciting Disturbance abroad; every Movement of these Men is known to and watched by him; but the Governor General expects that this Fever of Excitement will subside in Nepaul, as it promises to subside in Ava. The Mountains of Nepaul may be difficult to climb, but they have been climbed by British Troops; a Contest on the Plains would be fatal to the Goorkhas, and Nepaul could ill afford to lose the many Lacs which its Possessions in the Terrace afford her. The State of Ava has been similar to that of Nepaul; there has been internal Commotion which has had Influence on external Relations. With its Steamers and Men-of-War, and a few Regiments from Madras, the British Government might overrun and conquer large Tracts of unhealthy Country; but it has been slow to take Offence, and it yet looks with Confidence to the Adjustment of every Difference. Of serious internal Disturbance his Lordship can have no Apprehension, for whilst every native Chieftain appreciates the good Faith and the Forbearance of the British Government towards those who are faithful

to

to their Engagements, they are conscious also of their Weakness, and that Treason would ensure their own Ruin, as it would add to the Power and Resources of the paramount Authority.

With regard to Commercial Matters, you may particularly express the Gratification with which the British Government receive Information of the fostering Protection which the Maharajah had extended to the Commerce of the Two States, in the Sanction given by him to the Transmission of Boats and Merchandize by the Indus to Bombay. It is well known with how much Favour the British Government regards the Interest of Merchants, how it looks upon Commerce as the legitimate Source of Wealth and of Power, and as the best Bond of Concord amongst Nations in the Extension of its own Wealth; by those Means it foresees also the Extension of the Wealth and Power of the Maharajah, and rejoices in the joint Aggrandisement of the Two Nations.

IV.

No. 1.

Lord Auckland
to the
Secret Committee,
22d May 1838.

Enclosure No. 2.

No. 2.

Lord AUCKLAND to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

(Extract.)

Simla, 13th August 1838.

No. 2.

Lord Auckland
to the
Secret Committee,
13th August 1838.

I PURPOSELY delayed reporting to your Honourable Committee the Progress of the interesting and important Negotiations with the ex-King of Cabool and the Maharajah Runjeet Sing, conducted by Mr. Macnaghten, the Secretary to Government in this Department, until enabled to submit their final Result, together with the Detail of Proceedings.

Mr. Macnaghten, accompanied by Captain Wade, political Agent at Loodiana, by the Honourable W. Osborn, my Military Secretary, Doctor Drummond, and Lieutenant Macgregor, one of my Aides-de-Camp, arrived at the Town of Adeenanuggur, situated about Seventy Miles to the N.E. of Lahore, on the 30th May, and found the Maharajah encamped there. The Mission had been joined previously by Lieutenant Mackeson, Agent with the Ruler of Lahore for the Navigation of the Indus. Among the Enclosures with this Despatch, I have not deemed it necessary to forward the daily Reports of the Progress of the Mission, but shall content myself with noting that it was every where received with Marks of Honour and Attention.

I have already stated that there is every Likelihood of remaining on amicable Terms with Ava; and the State of Nepaul has recently and voluntarily disclaimed having the slightest Intention of Hostility towards our Power. The Details of Transactions connected with these States will be separately reported to you. I mention them here, merely because I believe that the favourable Result adverted to has been brought about, especially in the Instance of Nepaul, mainly by the Notoriety of our new Treaty with Runjeet Sing.

Of the Justice of the Course about to be pursued, there cannot exist a reasonable Doubt. We owe it to our own Safety to assist the lawful Sovereign of Affghanistan in the Recovery of his Throne. The Welfare of our Possessions in the East requires that we should, in the present Crisis of Affairs, have a decidedly friendly Power on our Frontiers, and that we should have an Ally who is interested in resisting Aggression and establishing Tranquillity, in place of a Chief seeking to identify himself with those whose Schemes of Aggrandisement and Conquest are not to be disguised.

The Barukzye Chiefs, from their Disunion, Weakness, and Unpopularity, were ill-fitted under any Circumstances to be useful Allies, or to aid us in our just and necessary Views of resisting Encroachment from the Westward. Yet as long as they refrained from Proceedings positively injurious to our Interests, we withheld our Aid from Shah Shooja in his Attempts to recover his lost Throne; but the Grant of this Aid has now become indispensable to our own Safety, if we desire to avert Persian and Russian Intrigue from the very Confines of our Territories. With those Powers the Cabool and Candahar Chiefs have openly allied themselves; and the declared Object of Dost Mahomed Khan is to obtain foreign Aid in the Prosecution of Hostilities against our old and faithful Ally Runjeet Sing, with a view to whose Destruction he has

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avowedly

IV.

No. 2.
 Lord Auckland
 to the
 Secret Committee,
 13th August 1838.

avowedly been exciting the whole Mahomedan Population of Central Asia to engage in a religious Warfare. His Determination to resist our Efforts at mediating his Disputes with the Maharajah showed too plainly, that so long as Cabool remained under his Government, we could never expect that the Tranquillity of our Neighbourhood would be preserved. We are warranted, therefore, by every Consideration of Prudence and Justice, in espousing the Cause of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk.

Still it must be admitted, that in one respect the Conduct of the Barukzye Chiefs is not without some Colour of Excuse; and though a Spirit of Ambition was unquestionably the governing Motive of Dost Mahomed's Conduct, yet he and his Candahar Brothers may not have been without Apprehension of the Displeasure of the Powers to the Westward in the Event of their holding back from the Persian Alliance. It is my Intention, therefore, when our Preparations are sufficiently matured, to tender to Dost Mahomed Khan an honourable Asylum in the Company's Territories. That an Individual of his Character could ever be trusted by Shooja-ool-Moolk is not to be hoped for. With the Candahar Brothers His Majesty may, perhaps, be left with Propriety to make his own Terms.

The Operations which we are about to undertake will doubtless be attended with much Expense; but this Consideration must, I feel assured, be held comparatively light, when contrasted with the Magnitude of the Object to be gained, which is no less than to raise up a Barrier to all Encroachments from the Westward. We shall, at all Events, by the Means we are adopting, avert a Danger immediately threatening us, at a Period when a more than usual Excitement prevails throughout our Indian Territory, and we shall gain Time (ample if judiciously employed) to strengthen our Frontier, and render us independent of external Aid in warding off such Designs as those which have now been clearly developed.

There are but a few Remarks which I need add, in closing the Report of my Proceedings and Views on this very important Subject. I have acted in a Crisis which has suddenly arisen, and at a Period when Appearances in every Quarter were the most threatening to the Tranquillity of the British Indian Empire, in the Manner which has seemed to me essential to ensure the Safety and to assert the Power and Dignity of our Government. I have, in adopting this Step, been deeply sensible of the Responsibility which it places on me. But I have felt, after the most anxious Deliberation, that I could not otherwise rightly acquit myself of my Trust.

The Encouragement afforded to dangerous Intrigues by the Division of Affghanistan into weak and disunited Chiefships has been prominently developed by the Experience of the past Year. I have determined, I may here likewise state, to give the direct and powerful Assistance of the British Government to the Enterprise of Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, in a Degree which was not in the first instance contemplated by me, from a Conviction, confirmed in the most decided Manner by every Opinion of Authority on the Subject, that the Measure could not be trusted mainly to the Support of the Sikh Ruler and Army, without imminent Hazard of Failure and of serious Detriment to the Reputation of the British Name among the Affghan People.

I need not enlarge on the additional Proofs which have been furnished since the Date of my former Despatches, of the manifest Designs of the Russian Officers to extend the Interference and Authority of their Country to the Borders of India. The Opposition of the Russian Ambassador before Herat, by which the Efforts of Mr. McNeill to arrange a Peace upon just and reasonable Terms between the Shah and the besieged were wholly frustrated when they seemed on the Point of being effectual,—the Aid given by the Russian Ambassador to the Siege by Advance of Money,—and still more, the Employment of an Officer of the Mission to direct the Works of Siege, are Facts which will have forcibly arrested the Attention of your Honourable Committee.

V.

No. 1.

AMEER DOST MAHOMED KHAN, of Cabool, to Lord AUCKLAND, the Governor
General of India, 31st May 1836.

After Compliments.

As I have been long attached to the British Government by the Ties of Friendship and Affection, the late Intelligence of your Lordship's Arrival, enlightening with your Presence the Seat of Government, and diffusing over Hindoostan the Brightness of your Countenance, has afforded me extreme Gratification; and the Field of my Hopes (which had before been chilled by the cold Blast of the Times) has, by the happy Tidings of your Lordship's Arrival, become the Envy of the Garden of Paradise.

It may be known to your Lordship, that, relying on the Principles of Benevolence and Philanthropy which distinguish the British Government, I look upon myself and Country as bound to it; and the Letters I have received from that Quarter have all been replete with friendly Sentiments and Attention, and to the Effect that in the Time of Need the Obligations of Friendship should be fulfilled. The late Transactions in this Quarter, the Conduct of reckless and misguided Sikhs, and their Breach of Treaty, are well known to your Lordship. Communicate to me whatever may now suggest itself to your Wisdom for the Settlement of the Affairs of this Country, that it may serve as a Rule for my Guidance.

I hope your Lordship will consider me and my Country as your own, and favour me often by the Receipt of your friendly Letters. Whatever Directions your Lordship may be pleased to issue for the Administration of this Country, I will act accordingly.

No. 2.

Lord AUCKLAND to AMEER DOST MAHOMED KHAN, written 22d August 1836.

After Compliments.

I HAVE had the Pleasure to receive your friendly Letter, which was transmitted to me through Captain Wade; and I am gratified at the Opportunity which it affords me, so shortly after my Assumption of the Indian Government, to convey to you the Assurances of my unfeigned Regard and Esteem.

It is my Wish that the Affghans should be a flourishing and united Nation; and that, being at Peace with all their Neighbours, they should enjoy, by means of a more extended Commerce, all the Benefits and Comforts possessed by other Nations, which, through such Means, have attained a high and advanced State of Prosperity and Wealth.

My Predecessor, aware that nothing was so well calculated to promote this Object as the opening of the Navigation of the Indus, spared himself no Pains in procuring this Channel for the Flow of Industry and Enterprise; and it shall be my Study to second his philanthropic Purpose, and to complete the Scheme which he so successfully commenced. I feel assured that you cannot but take a lively Interest in the Success of this Undertaking, so especially conducive as it must be to the Prosperity of the People over whom you rule.

It is probable that I may, ere long, depute some Gentleman to your Court, to discuss with you certain commercial Topics, with a View to our mutual Advantage.

I have learned with deep Regret that Dissensions exist between yourself and Maharajah Runjeet Sing. My Friend, you are aware that it is not the Practice

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No. 1.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
Lord Auckland,
31st May 1836.

No. 2.

Lord Auckland
to
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
22d August 1836.

V.

Lord Auckland
to
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
22d August 1836.

Practice of the British Government to interfere with the Affairs of other independent States ; and indeed it does not immediately occur to me how the Interference of my Government could be exercised for your Benefit. I shall be happy, however, to learn from you by what Means you think that I can be of any Assistance ; and, in the meantime, I have only to hope that you will be able to devise some Mode of effecting a Reconciliation with the Sikhs ; it being not only for your own Advantage, but for the Advantage of all the Countries in the Vicinity, that Two Nations so situated should ever preserve unimpaired the Relations of Amity and Concord.

Begging that you will accept my renewed Assurance of Friendship and Regard,

I am, &c.
(Signed) AUCKLAND.

No.3.

No. 3.
Secretary to the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
5th Sept. 1836.

The SECRETARY to the GOVERNOR GENERAL of INDIA in COUNCIL to Captain ALEXANDER BURNES, Assistant Resident in Cutch.

(Extract.)

Fort William, 5th September 1836.

I AM directed to inform you that the Right Hon. the Governor General of India in Council has been pleased to select you to conduct a Commercial Mission to the Countries bordering on the Indus, with a View to complete the re-opening of the Navigation of that River on the Basis of the Treaties lately concluded with the Powers possessing Territory on its Banks.

You will first proceed to the Court of the Ameers of Sinde, to the Chief of whom a Letter of Credentials is enclosed, with a Copy for your Information. While you remain within the Limits of Sinde you will act in communication with Colonel Pottinger, and in subordination to him ; and that Officer will accompany you to Hyderabad, should he consider that his doing so will further the Success of the Objects which the Supreme Government has in view.

The Measures which require the earliest Attention are the Continuance of the Surveys of the Mouths of the River, and the laying down of the Buoys, and the Erection of rough Land-marks as a Guide to the Navigation of that Mouth, which may be selected as offering the greatest Facilities to Trade in the present State of the River. It may possibly be necessary to have frequent and even annual Surveys of the Entrances of the River, and Declarations at the principal Ports of the Bombay Presidency of the Passage which may in each Season be most conveniently adopted. Your first Care, therefore, after your Arrival at Hyderabad, will be to obtain Permission for the Adoption of these Measures ; and when this Object has been attained the Bombay Government should be immediately informed of it through Colonel Pottinger, in order that no Time may be lost in taking the necessary Steps.

The next Point will be to secure the actual Execution of the Treaty as regards the Communication between the River and the Sea. The Treaty provides that a fixed Toll shall be levied at the Mouth of the River, in lieu of all Demands, as long as Merchandize does not quit the River Line, and that a native Agent shall be stationed at a convenient Place, on the Part of the British Government, to see that no extra Exactions are made. The excessive Duties now levied preclude all Hope of the Revival of Trade until these Arrangements are carried into effect.

It appears to his Lordship in Council to be desirable that you should settle with Colonel Pottinger, before you leave Bhooj, at what Point the native Agent may for the present be most conveniently established ; and you can then take him with you to Hyderabad, introduce him to the Ameers, and lastly send him to his Destination at the Mouth of the River, after procuring the necessary Orders to the local Officers, prohibiting them from levying any other Duties, except those which are allowed by Treaty, either from River or Sea Vessels, and directing them to communicate with the native Agent on every controverted Point. The Completion of this Arrangement should be immediately intimated to the Bombay Government, in order that public Notice of it may be given at Bombay and the other Ports of the Bombay Presidency. The Place

Place of Residence of the native Agent may be subsequently changed, as Experience may dictate.

You are aware that the Navigation between the Sea and Tatta has in all Ages been attended with great Difficulties, and that at Times the Obstructions have been so great as to have led to the partial or entire Abandonment of this Portion of the Water Route. It will therefore be necessary to be prepared for the possible Case of the Land Route being to the above Extent alone available for the Conveyance of Merchandize, and the present seems to be a favourable Opportunity for obtaining the Removal of every unnecessary Obstacle from it. You will accordingly represent to the Ameers the present excessive Amount of the Transit Duties between the Sea and Tatta, and those which, against the Spirit of the Treaty, are Exactions on the Water Carriage from Vikhur up the Buggaur; and you will endeavour to obtain their Reduction to such moderate Rates as will admit of the free Passage of the Trade. The most equitable and convenient Plan, perhaps, would be, that the same Toll should be levied and at the same Place, whether the Goods are conveyed by Land or Water during this Part of their Route; but it is not intended that this Arrangement should interfere with the established Duties on Opium, which are understood to be very profitable. His Lordship in Council believes that the Ameers will not be insensible at the present Period of the Advantages of a close Understanding with the British Government; and they must be aware that, although a strict Observance of the existing Treaties is all that will be required of them, yet a complete and cordial Union between the Two Governments can only be the Effect of a hearty Concurrence in the Object for which alone these Treaties were entered into, which was the real and substantial Encouragement of commercial Enterprise.

In order to give full Effect to the Plan for re-opening the Navigation of the Indus, it is necessary that some Places of Entrepôt and general Resort, secure from all Oppression and vexatious Exactions, to the Establishment of which general Publicity may be given, and in the Safety of which general Confidence may be felt, should be fixed upon. Perhaps Tatta, towards the Mouth of the River, and Mitthun-Kote, towards the Junction of its upper Streams, may be pointed out as most convenient for this Purpose; but on this Point a Determination can best be formed by Officers on the Spot. You have also suggested, as a Means conducive to Success, not unlikely to have Weight in these Countries, that a Proclamation of a Fair and of a Meeting of Merchants from all Countries, from Bombay to Bokhara, from Tabreez to Calcutta, at an appointed Time, at some Place upon the Banks of the Indus, might be effectually attempted. His Lordship in Council is disposed to trust more to Time, to the Continuance of Peace, and to the gradual Growth of Confidence, than to Measures of the kind last mentioned; but, as a secondary Means of Success, they ought not to be neglected.

It would be a great Point gained, if the Ameers could be persuaded to re-establish Tatta on its former Footing of a commercial Entrepôt; and Arguments will not be wanting to show how much their Interests and Reputation would be benefited by such a Measure. The Proclamation of an annual Fair at the proper Season at that Place, with low Duties, and the Presence of a British Officer to settle Disputes, might also assist in attracting Merchants from Bombay on one Side, and the different Countries in the Interior on the other; but in suggesting this or other similar Measures you will be guided by your own local Knowledge, and by the Advice of Colonel Pottinger, with whom it is expected that you will freely communicate, before leaving Bhooj, on all the different Points on which you will have to negotiate.

The Attention of Government has lately been called by a Report from Mohun Lal, on the Muzaree Tribe, who, as you are aware, occupy a Tract about Sixty Miles in length above Shikarpore, and whose lawless Habits are likely, if not effectually checked, to cause great Annoyance to the Trade in that Part of the Route. The Country of the Muzarees is nominally dependent on Sinde, and was taken into the Calculation of their Portion of the Toll; but the Tribe is said to set the Authority of the Ameers at Defiance. It is, however, by the Ameers that we must, in the first instance, require them to be restrained; and it is to be hoped that when the Sinde Government is known to be acting by our Desire, and in furtherance of an Object to which

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No. 3.

Secretary to the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
5th Sept. 1836.

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No. 3.

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Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
5th Sept. 1836.

we attach much Importance, its Efforts to secure Respect for the Trade passing along the River may still prove successful. One Object, therefore, of your Visit to Hyderabad must be, to induce the Ameers to adopt some effectual Measures to prevent the Muzarees from in any Way molesting the Boats passing up or down the River. The Ameers themselves must determine what those Measures shall be; but you will be at liberty to offer them any Advice you think proper.

After leaving Hyderabad you will proceed by the River to Khyrpoor; but in the existing State of the political Relations between the Chief of Khyrpoor and the Hyderabad Ameers, there does not appear to be any sufficient Reason for entering into separate Negotiations with him. You will, however, renew your friendly Intercourse with him, explain to him the Object of your Mission, and engage his Co-operation in any Points in which it may be required.

From Khyrpoor you will proceed, as before, to Mitthun-Kote, where you will be met by Captain Wade and Lieutenant Mackeson; and Maharajah Runjeet Sing will also be invited to have an Agent present. You will then discuss with the above-mentioned British Officers the Question of the most convenient Place for the Establishment of a Mart or Entrepôt, with reference to all the Branches of Trade proceeding down or across the Indus, and the Means best suited for the Establishment of an annual Fair; and you will submit a joint Report on these Points to the Supreme Government. You will, however, particularly observe that any Negotiations which may be necessary with Maharajah Runjeet Sing, in furtherance of the Plan, for the Security of the Merchants, for the Imposition of moderate Duties, perhaps for the Residence of a British Officer at the Town selected for the Entrepôt, will be conducted under the Instructions which may be furnished to Captain Wade. You are not to consider yourself as vested with any Authority as a political Officer out of the Limits of Sind.

It will be necessary for you to keep Captain Wade and Lieutenant Mackeson well informed regarding your Movements, in order that they may meet you at the proper Time at Mitthun-Kote.

You are aware that the Arrangements which have been settled by Treaty for re-opening the Navigation of the Indus do not extend, as regards the main Stream of that River, higher than Mitthun-Kote. Maharajah Runjeet Sing's Permission will therefore be requested for your Passage up the Indus to Attock, whence you will proceed to Peshawur and Cabool.

On proceeding to Peshawur and Cabool you will make Inquiry into the present State of the Commerce of those Countries; inform the Merchants of that Quarter of the Measures concerted and Officers employed for the Purpose of affording Security on the Indus; encourage them by all Means in your Power to conduct their Trade by the new Route; and invite them, when that Plan shall be sufficiently matured, to resort to the contemplated Entrepôt and Fair. You will hereafter be furnished with a Letter to Dost Mahomed Khan, stating generally the Objects for which you are deputed, and soliciting for you friendly Protection.

From Cabool you will proceed to Candahar, where you will make the same Inquiries, and invite the same Co-operation in the Plans in progress for the Revival of Trade. A flourishing Commerce is supposed to have been formerly carried on between the Indus and Candahar by several Mountain Routes which are now shut; and it is requested that you will make Inquiry regarding these Routes, and the Practicability of re-opening them, both while you are on your Way up the Indus, and while you are on your Road from Cabool and Candahar. The direct Route from Candahar to the Sea, by Kelat and Sonmeanee, will also engage your Attention.

You will return from Candahar to Hyderabad, by way of the Bolan pass, and Shikarpore.

Your Salary has been fixed at 1,500 Rupees per Mensem; besides which, you are authorized to charge all the Expenses which it may be necessary to incur on account of the Mission. It will, perhaps, be desirable that you should immediately procure from Bombay such Articles as will be required to be given in Presents to the different Chiefs on your Route. They ought not to be of a costly Nature, but should be chosen particularly with a view to exhibit the Superiority of British Manufactures.

It

It is requested that you will have a strict Regard to Economy in all your Arrangements, which you will easily be able to do, as Parade would be unsuitable to the Character of a commercial Mission.

Copies of the Letters which have been addressed to Captain Wade and the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay are enclosed for your Information.

In conclusion, I am directed to state that his Lordship the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council confidently relies on your already well known Industry and Intelligence.

V.

No. 3.

Secretary to the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
5th Sept. 1836.

No. 4.

Lord AUCKLAND to AMEER DOST MAHOMED KHAN.

After Compliments.

Fort William, 15th May 1837.

In my Letter to your Address, dated the 22d August 1836, I intimated my Intention of deputing an Officer to confer with you as to the best Means of promoting the Interests of Commerce and facilitating the Intercourse of Traders between India and Affghanistan.

To your enlightened Mind it cannot fail to be obvious, that Commerce is the Basis of all national Prosperity, and that it is Commerce alone which enables the People of one Country to exchange its superfluous Commodities for those of another, to accumulate Wealth, and to enjoy all the Comforts and Blessings of civilized Life.

The general Diffusion of these Blessings and Comforts among neighbouring Nations is the grand Object of the British Government. It seeks for itself no exclusive Benefits, but it ardently desires to secure the Establishment of Peace and Prosperity in all the Countries of Asia.

With this View the British Government prevailed upon the Powers occupying the Banks of the River to open the Navigation of the Indus, and to this Object indeed have all its Efforts been invariably directed.

I now send Captain Burnes, who will deliver this Letter, to confer with you as to the best Means of facilitating commercial Intercourse between Affghanistan and India. I have no Doubt that he will meet with a friendly Reception at your Court, and that his personal Communications with you will be attended with all the Advantages which I anticipate.

In conclusion, &c.

(Signed) AUCKLAND.

No. 4.

Lord Auckland
to
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
15th May 1837.

No. 5.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

Sir,

Cabool, 24th September 1837.

No. 5.

Captain Burnes
to
the Secretary to the
Governor General,
24th Sept. 1837.

I do myself the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, that we reached Cabool on the Morning of the 20th instant, were conducted into the City by Sirdar Mahomed Akbar Khan, with great Demonstration of Respect and Joy, and immediately on our Arrival presented to the Ameer, whose Reception was of the most gratifying Nature. After the Interview we were conducted by the Ameer's Son to a spacious Garden in the Bala Hissar, which had been prepared for us, and where we are now residing.

2. On the following Day I had the Honour to deliver my Letter of Credentials, which the Ameer received in a very flattering Manner, with many Expressions of his high Sense of the great Honour which had been conferred on him, in his at last having had the Means of Communication with an Officer of the British Government, for which he felt deeply grateful to the Governor General.

3. Up to this Time my Communications with the Ameer have been confined to Matters of Compliment and Ceremony; but I shall take an early Opportunity

V.
 No. 5.
 Captain Burnes
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 24th Sept. 1837.

tunity of reporting on what transpires at this Court, merely observing at present, from what I have seen and heard, that I have good Reason to believe Dost Mahomed Khan will set forth no extravagant Pretensions, and act in such a Manner as will enable the British Government to show its Interest in his Behalf, and at the same Time preserve for us the valued Friendship of the Sikh Chief.

I have the Honour, &c.

(Signed) ALEXANDER BURNES.

No. 6.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 6.
 Captain Burnes
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 4th Oct. 1837.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 4th October 1837.

I HAVE now the Honour to report the Result of my Inquiries on the Subject of Persian Influence in Cabool, and the exact Power which the Kuzzilbash, or Persian, Party resident in this City, exercise over the Politics of Affghanistan. Since any Ascendancy on the Part of Persia, or her Allies in this Quarter, must either have its Origin, or be chiefly brought about by means of the Persian Faction in the Country, it becomes highly important to note the History of these Tribes, their Rise, Progress, and present Condition.

In the Beginning of last Century the Feebleness of the Persian Monarchy excited the Cupidity of the Affghans, who overran the fairer Portion of that Kingdom, and possessed themselves of Ispahan. Their Successes called forth the Energies of the great Nadir, who not only drove the Affghans from Persia, but annexed the whole of their own Territories to his Empire, and turning their Swords against India, with an Army of Persians and Affghans, sacked it precisely a Hundred Years ago. During these Wars the Conqueror deemed it politic to fix some native Tribes in the Lands he had subdued; and to this Policy we owe the Colony of Persians now settled in Cabool, which, when first located, amounted to less than Two thousand Families.

The People composing it consist of Three Divisions: 1st, the Juwansheer; 2d, the Ufshurs; and, 3d, the Moorad Khanes; the whole being designated by the general Name of Gholam Khanee or Gholam-i-Shah, Servants of the King. The Juwansheers are a Clan of Toorks from Sheeshu. There are various Divisions included among them, such as the Koort, the Shah Sumund, the Syah Munsoor, &c., and they form the principal Portion of the Kuzzilbashes. They consist of 2,500 Families, and occupy a separate Quarter of Cabool, called the Chandoul, which is surrounded by high Walls; their Chief is Khan Sheereen Khan. The Ufshurs are also Toorks, and of the Tribes to which Nadir himself belonged. There are Three hundred Families of them, who live in a strong Fort about Three Miles from Cabool, under Gholam Hoossein Khan. The last Division, the Moorad Khanee, is comprised of all the Persians who have from Time to Time settled in the Country. Fifteen hundred Families of them reside together, under Mehr Alee Khan and Five other Chiefs. Besides these, there are 700 others in the Fort of the Byats, a Division of the Tribe under Mahommed Khan. It will be thus seen that there are at this Time 4,000 Kuzzilbash Families in Cabool, from which a Force of from 4,000 to 5,000 Men could be levied, on an Emergency, for the Purposes of War. The Number has been generally considered greater than this detailed Statement, but the whole of the Sheeah Population in and about Cabool is then included in the Calculation, and among these the Hazarehs would furnish twice as many Men as the Persians.

On Nadir Shah's Assassination, many of the Persians fled from Cabool to their native Country; but Ahmed Shah Dooranee, who succeeded to the Authority of Nadir, conciliated a Portion of them, whom he retained in his Pay, and found of eminent Service throughout his active Reign, in which they became an organized Body, acting under a Khan, who was directly responsible to the Shah, while the Kuzzilbashes themselves only acknowledged their own Chief. Matters seem to have continued in this State for about Fifty-three Years, during which the Persians acquired such Power that the Kings found it necessary to favour them by large stipendiary Allowances, granted in some

Instances

Instances even to Minors, and as the Suddozye Monarchy declined, their Support became indispensable to the personal Security of the King. In the Reign of Shah Zemaun the Chief of the Juwansheers was put to Death, and from that Time a Want of Confidence in the Kings of Cabool on the Part of the Kuzzilbashes is to be traced, till they almost cease to appear as a Body in the Affairs of the State. The superior Intelligence possessed by all Persians readily befits them for Employment among the Affghans; and from War many became Secretaries (Meerzas) and Stewards (Nazirs) to the different Chiefs; others took to Agriculture and Merchandize, and some are at present Shopkeepers in Cabool. It would at one Time have been dangerous to entertain any Persian without their Khan's Permission; but with the Loss of military Employment, or rather Withdrawal from it, their Pay ceased, and the growing Wants of many drove them to the Occupations which I have stated, though a Portion of them have always continued in the Service of the Ruler of Cabool, as is the Case at the present Time.

Since the whole of the Persians in Cabool are Sheeahs, and the national Persuasion of the Affghans is Soonnee, the Positions of the Kuzzilbashes was full of Danger; it was at any Time possible to turn political Disputes into religious Differences, and there are various Instances in the History of the Cabool Monarchy in which these have threatened their very Existence. Of late these Fears have not been diminished; and since the Overthrow of the Monarchy the Walls which surround the Juwansheer Quarter of the City have been heightened and improved; and I observe Alterations even since 1832. At one Time they were not afraid to live outside of the City, but common Interest has now led the whole of the Persians to congregate together as the best Means to ward off Danger. They would have willingly left the City of Cabool, and fixed themselves at a Distance, like the Uffshurs, in a detached Fort; but this they have found impossible, and their Situation in the Chandool, or Quarter of the Juwansheers, is now so completely commanded that an infuriated Population might readily overpower them. The Persians themselves are therefore intently bent on adding to their own Strength by Intrigues around them; and though their military Influence has declined, their Power in this Way is more considerable than before, since every Man of Rank has Persians for his Secretaries, and all the Home and Foreign Correspondence is in their Hands, by which their Influence ramifies in every Direction.

The Persians of Cabool attached themselves to the Vizier Futteh Khan, and fought against Persia in his Herat Campaign. They have long sought for a Master who would consolidate them as in former Times, and they have at Times entered into Correspondence with Shah Shooja; but they have especially attached themselves to the Vizier's Brother, the present Ruler of Cabool, and with the greater Avidity, as his Mother was of their Tribe. Dost Mahomed Khan availed himself to the fullest Extent of their Support, and it was long considered by many that he was even favourable to Sheeah Doctrines; but he has either had the Discrimination to see that they would be fatal to Supremacy among his Countrymen, or never, in fact, entertained them. This he proclaimed to the World when, about Four Years ago, he took the Title of Ameer, which has a religious Signification; and from that Time the Kuzzilbashes have ceased to centre their Hopes in him. He himself has also withdrawn much of his Confidence from the Party, reduced the Number of those in his Pay to about 1,000 or 1,200 Persons, and Part of their Salaries he has retrenched. The head Men receive about 58,000 Rupees per Annum, and the total derivable from the State by the rest may amount to less than a Lac of Rupees, each Horseman receiving Eighty-four Rupees per Annum. Even in public he does not conceal his Contempt for their Creed, and, what is perhaps more bitterly felt, his avowed Opinions of their wanting Courage in the Field, as exhibited in his Campaign with the ex-King at Candahar, and lately at Peshawur.

In the former Instance he is stated to have placed Affghans on both Flanks of the Kuzzilbashes, with secret Instructions to fire on them if they fled. At Peshawur it is very certain that the Party were backward in fighting; none of them were killed; and a Piece of Plesantry is attributed to the Ameer, who said that he never remembered a Kuzzilbash to have fallen in his Service. But Dost Mahomed Khan may have mistaken a Want of Inclination, originating from disappointed Hopes, for a Want of Courage. Certain it is, that of late

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No. 6.

Captain Burnes
to
the Secretary to the
Governor General,
4th Oct. 1837.

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No. 8.
 Captain Burnes
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 4th Oct. 1837.

he has sought to raise a Body of regular Troops, disciplined by Europeans, but he has hitherto completely failed; and if he consulted his Interests he would seek no other Support than that which he may command from the Hill People about Cabool, and the native Affghan Tribes who do now serve, and would willingly, on good Pay, devote themselves to him. It would also undoubtedly add to his Strength if he drew at the same Time the Kuzzilbashes nearer to him.

While Persian Influence is thus declining, it appears a strange Contradiction to record that Dost Mahomed Khan has sought for Alliance with Persia as the best Means which occurred to him to support his Power. He admitted into his Councils a native Persian of some Talent, the Naib Abdool Samut, who has since been disgraced and fled to Persia; and the Advice of this Man, with that of Mahomed Khan Byat, a Kuzzilbash raised by him, and much in his Confidence, as well as that of several interested Persons, induced the Ameer to seek for Support from Persia, and with this have revived the Hopes of the Kuzzilbash Faction, though their Support would probably be directed under Persian Influence to a Master who more appreciated them than Dost Mahomed Khan. The whole Party see, however, in the Alliance certain Benefit to their own Condition, and in consequence do what in them lies to promote the Intercourse. It is thus that the Persian Community in Cabool have viewed the Arrival of an Agent of the British Government in this Quarter with Suspicion, if not open Dissatisfaction.

The Shah of Persia has not been slow in responding to Dost Mahomed Khan's Desire for an Alliance; an Elchee has been sent with Robes and Presents in Return, and is now at Candahar, but he has appeared at a Time most unfavourable to his Master, when the Attention of the British Government is directed to Affghanistan, and which goes far to discredit him with all Parties, and even to damp the Hopes of the Kuzzilbashes. It is even doubtful if he will advance to Cabool; and it is certain, if he does so, that any Offers which he may make will never be placed in the Balance against those of the British Government. The King of Persia desires to add Herat to his Dominions, and the Chiefs of Candahar and Cabool might certainly aid him in his Designs, but the Probabilities of a Return for such good Offices are more dubious.

No. 7.

Captain A. BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 7.

Captain Burnes
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 5th Oct. 1837.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 5th October 1837.

ON the Afternoon of the 24th I was invited to the Bala Hissar, and, being conducted into the Interior of the Harem, found the Ameer and his favourite Son, Mahomed Akbar Khan, without any of the Chiefs, Secretaries, or Attendants. The Interview lasted till Midnight, Dinner being meanwhile served up; and I had an Opportunity of conversing at length with Dost Mahomed Khan.

At the Outset I proceeded to unfold to him, in great Detail, the Motives which led the British Government to direct its Attention to the River Indus and the Countries bordering on it. I dwelt upon the prosperous Trade which had once run in the Direction of its Course, and the many Facilities which it had been found to present to the Trader to transport his Goods by it in preference to Land Routes, and, in addition to all, explained the Treaties which we had formed with the Rulers upon it, the light Tolls leviable, the certain Protection to Property which they insured, superintended as was the Navigation by British Agents, and, finally, since the River Indus leads to the great commercial City of Cabool and the Marts beyond Hindoo Koosh, the British Government sought in an Extension and Encouragement of the Trade, not any selfish Object, but, on the contrary, saw an Advancement of the Ends of others as well of itself, and the strongest Motives for stimulating the Ameer of Cabool, and all other Chiefs, to associate themselves with us in promoting this Trade, since increased Consumption would be productive of increased Revenues, and the direct Advantage was not only apparent but immediate.

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 Captain Burnes
 to
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 5th Oct. 1837.

immediate. Dost Mahomed Khan listened with great Attention to what had been said, assured me that no one did or could enter more readily into the Views which the British Government held than himself, for he had the fortunate Experience to discover, that by protecting the Merchant the Returns of his Custom House had gone on increasing, and were in a State of Improvement at this Hour, and the Government of India might therefore rely with every Confidence on his cordial Co-operation in any Measures which tended to promote the Trade to Cabool and Toorkistan, and that he would instruct all the Merchants and Hindoos to communicate with me, and also make them acquainted with the enlightened Protection they would experience in passing to India, and with the new Routes, through which, by our fostering Care, they might bring their Goods to Market.

"But," said the Ameer, "I am involved in Difficulties which are very prejudicial to Commerce; my Hostilities with the Sikhs narrow my Resources, compel me to take up Money from Merchants, and to even increase the Duties to support the Expenses of War. These are the Shifts to which I am driven for seeking to preserve my Honour. While we were engaged in resisting Shooja-ool-Moolk at Candahar the City of Peshawur was seized from our Family, and I had the Mortification to discover among the Papers of the ex-King, after his Defeat, a Treaty that made Peshawur the Reward of the Sikhs, and to hurl me and mine from Authority. I was yet left; but when Runjeet Sing's Officers planted a Fort near the Khyber Pass my Existence was endangered; I resisted, and here also with Success."

I was not unprepared for the Irritation of the Ameer on the late Events which have transpired in this Quarter; and, as the best Means of allaying such Feelings, I thought it advisable to give a ready Ear to what was urged, since I might by Argument and Advice do the Chief Service, and combat some of the Positions which he had taken up. I admitted, therefore, that it was undoubtedly true that War produced the Evils of which he complained, and crippled his Power, but I strongly urged him to reflect on the Uselessness of seeking to contend with so potent a Prince as Maharajah Runjeet Sing. I stated the Revenue of that Chief, the great Abilities which he possessed, the Riches at his Command, the fine Army which he could bring into the Field, the Hopelessness of warring with him, and the Injuries which he inflicted on himself and his People by allowing himself to be drawn into Hostilities, and though the Fortune of War had of late granted Success to his Arms, and his formidable Opponent Huree Sing was no more, I could assure him, as a Well-wisher, that he was contending with a Power which he could not resist, and that it would be prudent to seek for such an Adjustment of Differences as would preserve his own Reputation and that of his Countrymen.

The Ameer bore at once the most ready Testimony to the Power and Abilities of Runjeet Sing; and, after various Questions as to my own Impressions regarding the Punjaub as a State, said it was too true that he could not attack such an Adversary. My Sons and People may speak in exaggerated Strains of our late Success; but it is too evident, however, that our Power is not One Tenth of that of the Punjaub; and, instead of renewing such Conflict, it would be a Source of real Gratification if the British Government would counsel me how to act: none of our other Neighbours can avail me; and, in return, I would pledge myself to forward its commercial and its political Views.

I assured the Ameer that I heard these Sentiments with extreme Satisfaction, for it had gone abroad that his Conclusions, from late Events, were otherwise; and I had only, as a Wellwisher, set before him the true Power of Runjeet Sing; and from his own Observations, it appeared to me I could not have overrated it. I could, however, assure him, that the British Government warmly interested itself in the Preservation of Peace, and wished well to both Parties; that in Maharajah Runjeet Sing it recognized, and that too publicly, an old and valued Ally, and in the Ameer himself it saw a Ruler who was anxious to promote the commercial Prosperity of his Country, and consequently of his Neighbours; and that though I myself had not been deputed here to adjust political Differences, it would indeed be gratifying if I could do any thing towards an End so desirable as a Peace, which would not only save the further Loss of human Life, but promote the Good of all Parties; but without

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to
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an exact Knowledge of the Ameer's Sentiments on all Points my Advice would not only be useless but probably prejudicial.

Dost Mahomed Khan now entered upon the Affairs of his own Government; ran over the History of the Dooraunee Kingdom, expatiating on its Power, which extended from Meshid to Cashmere; and, pointing to the House in which he sat, said, that this is the whole Share of that vast Empire that has fallen to me, and I cannot therefore be indifferent to the Honour of having Communication with an Agent of the British Government, nor to seeking, by every Means I can, to interest it in my Behalf. The Treaties which have been made with the Powers on the Indus are the best Proofs of your Sincerity in the Objects which have led the Government to depute you to Cabool, and to interfere in the Affairs of Peshawur and Cabool.

I did not conceal from the Ameer that we had sought to preserve Peace along the Line of the Indus, and that we had used our Influence to prevent its being disturbed, and had happily succeeded; but I could assure him that we had done it to promote commercial Views, without receiving any Consideration, and that the current Rumours regarding the Cession of Shikapore to us were incorrect, and likewise that we had come to a perfect Understanding with Maharajah Runjeet Sing, and that the Friendship of the British Government for that Personage was greater than ever. I here drew a broad Line of Distinction between the Affairs of Shikapore and Peshawur; pointed out that the one was a Possession of the Ameers of Sinde, while Peshawur was an undoubted Conquest of the Sikhs, made by the Sword, preserved by it, and to interfere with which would be a Violation of Justice and the Integrity of Runjeet Sing's Dominions. I continued, however, that there was a Rumour very current in Peshawur, and which has also reached me, that the Maharajah intended to make some Change in the Management of Peshawur, but that it sprung from himself, and not the British Government.

The Ameer said that he had also heard similar Reports, and asked if I knew the Arrangements, for Peshawur could be of no Value to the Sikhs, and must indeed cause great Expense. I stated my Ignorance of the Plans of Runjeet Sing; but it appeared a probable enough Arrangement, since his Highness had granted large Jagheers to Sultan Mahomed Khan and his Brothers, that he contemplated the Restoration of the whole Country to that Branch of his Family, under certain Restrictions. I said that I spoke without definite Information, and not from any Indifference on the Part of the British Government, which would rejoice to see a Change that terminated the present State of constant War in Peshawur; and I even believed that if Runjeet Sing sought of himself to change his Policy in that Quarter, the Government would be glad to use its good Offices to both Parties, if it saw any Prospect of their being useful; but that it was now needless to say more without certain Information, though the supposed Intentions of the Maharajah ought to afford the Ameer Subject for Consideration, and might probably lead him to devise some satisfactory Means of a Reconciliation with the Sikhs. With these Observations our private Conversation ended, by Dost Mahomed Khan stating that he would take an early Opportunity of again seeing me.

The Ameer on this invited in Meerza Samee Khan and Meerza Imaum Verdi, who are the principal Secretaries of himself and his Son, and without entering into any minute Particulars sketched out what had passed between us, and called for Dinner; during and after which he entered upon many Subjects, and, among others, on his Connexion with Persia.

He stated with considerable Candour the whole Circumstances regarding it; declared that he had sought with Ardour the Friendship of the British Government, from its being his Neighbour, but he had sought in vain; and hearing of the Power of Persia, and the Designs towards Khorassan, he had addressed Mahommed Shah, and an Elchee was now at Candahar, bringing Robes for him and his Brother, with a valuable Dagger, and a Promise of Assistance in a Crore of Rupees. Since the Conversation was not of my asking, I did not hesitate to enter upon it, and asked if he placed Reliance on the Aid of Persia, and on the large pecuniary Assistance which had been promised; and he at once assured me that he did not.

On the 26th and 28th the Ameer came over in Person to visit us, accompanied by many of the Persons about his Court; and, without entering on the Subjects

Subjects above treated on, discoursed on many Matters of general Interest, recurring, however, in both Visits, to Persia, for which he now either possesses, or feigns to possess, no good Feeling, speaking contemptuously of the late Campaign in Khorassan. He also asked of me the Relations between the British Government and Russia, the Influence of Russia over the Dominions of Turkey, and spoke of the Control which Russia exercised over the Trade in Toorkistan.

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 Captain Burnes
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 5th Oct. 1837.

I was again invited last Night to the Bala Hissar, where I met the Nawab Jubbar Khan, and had further and long Conversation with Dost Mahomed Khan. I soon found that he had something to communicate which interested him; and after stating at some Length how anxiously he himself desired to see his Differences with the Sikhs terminated, said, that if I advised it, he would send a Son to Lahore to ask Maharajah Runjeet Sing's Forgiveness for what had passed; and, if he would consent to give up Peshawur to him, he would hold it tributary to Lahore, send the requisite Presents of Horses and Rice, and in all Things consider himself, in that Part of his Dominions, as holding under Lahore.

On hearing the Conclusion which he had come to I asked him if his Countrymen might not consider he had gone too far in his Conciliation of the Sikh Chieftain; but he did not consider such an Arrangement would be viewed in that Light, particularly as the Homage which he had agreed to render for Peshawur did not affect his other Dominions. I here stated that he had Brothers in Peshawur, whose Condition he must compassionate, and if Peshawur were restored to them, his Reputation would be widely spread in this Country, since the World would give him Credit for having had some Share in the Transaction. Dost Mahomed Khan declared that he would guarantee to Runjeet Sing, or to the British Government, the Jagheers which his Brothers now enjoyed, but that Peshawur might as well continue in the Hands of the Sikhs as in those of Sultan Mahomed Khan, as it would never otherwise be believed that Maharajah Runjeet Sing had withdrawn from the Countries Westward of the Indus. The Maharajah's often expressed Wish to have Horses and Tribute from him would, he was sure, prove a great Inducement to his Highness to hand over Peshawur to him, as he had never before paid him Tribute, and Sultan Mahomed Khan had long been his Servant.

I am not aware how far this Offer proceeds from a Hope of future Aggrandizement, or an Intention to injure the Peshawur Branch of his Family; but it is now sufficient to report the Sum of his Views and Wishes. By some these Offers may be construed merely into a specious Kind of Moderation; by others they may be hailed as sincere Proofs of the Ameer's Desire to terminate his Differences with the Sikhs; but whether Runjeet Sing's Policy suggests or not a Compliance with them, they certainly show that Dost Mahomed Khan is not likely to enter upon any aggressive Measures, notwithstanding the Vaunts of his People regarding the late Battle at Jumrood.

With reference to the Chief of Cabool individually, I see little Change in him since my Visit to this Country in 1832; since then he has added Jelalabad to his Country, and the most important Change in his Administration is the Investiture of Five of his Sons in different Governments, a Policy which cannot be condemned, and, if he can succeed in it, will certainly contribute to the Stability of his Government.

With some, and perhaps they are the Majority of his Subjects, his Wars with the Sikhs have gained him Applause; but with one Party, and that by far the most worthy of Conciliation, the wealthy and mercantile Classes, his Campaigns have been viewed in a different Light, and given great Dissatisfaction.

No. 8.

V.

PUBLIC LETTER from the Ameer Dost MAHOMED KHAN to the Candahar Chief.

No. 8.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
the Candar Chief,
25th Oct. 1837.

(A. C.)

Cabool, 25th October 1837.

I HAVE lately sent you all the News of this Quarter which you might have understood.

What your Letters contained I comprehend perfectly ; we have been always Friends with each other, and the Fruits of Unanimity have and will always prove advantageous. You and all my other Brothers at Candahar have always written to me that I was your Superior, and asked my Advice on every Subject, and declared that you would never contradict me.

As Peshawur, which is our principal Abode, fell into the Hands of the Sikhs on account of the Foolishness of Sultan Mahomed Khan, and which has been a Source of great Trouble and Vexation to us, so now Candahar, the Place of our Nativity, is always threatened by Kamran. These Difficulties obliged us all to have recourse to the English, Persian, and Tartar Governments. It brought, at last, from the East the English Elchee, and from the West the Elchees of Persia and Tartary. Before the latter Embassies entered the Country I informed you that as Alexander Burnes is coming here on the Part of the British Government it would be proper to send One of your Brothers to Cabool, that we might consult on the Matter and settle Things with him ; you replied to me that you would send Mehir Dil Khan, along with the Persian Elchee, and do what I advised.

Meanwhile some Misunderstanding takes place between you and your Brothers, which prevents the Elchee and Mehir Dil Khan coming here. Mr. Burnes arrives and enters upon Business. What he has seen and heard he has reported to his Government, and it will also reach the Sikhs. Some Hopes regarding Peshawur. It is well known to the World that the Power of the Sikhs is nothing in comparison with that of the English ; and if all our Objects be obtained through that Power so much the better. Mr. Burnes, after settling Matters in this Quarter, intends to proceed to Candahar, and thence, by the Road of Shikarpore, to Sinde.

For these few Days past no Letter has come direct from you ; but from the Contents of Letters for Mr. Burnes and others, I learn, that on the Information of a Persian Army coming to Herat, you are going to send your Son Mahomed Omar Khan, along with the Persian Elchee, to the Shah.

This has astonished me very much, because you never did any thing before without my Advice, and what Fruits do you hope to reap by sending your Son to Persia? If the British would not be friendly then you might make Friendship with others ; the former are near to us, and famous for preserving their Word ; the latter are nothing in Power compared with them.

If you look upon me as greater than yourself, take my Advice and do not send your Son to Persia. In the event of your not attending to my Advice such Circumstances will happen as will make you bite the Finger with Repentance.

No. 9.

PRIVATE LETTER from the Ameer Dost MAHOMED KHAN to the Chief of Candahar ; enclosed in the preceding.

No. 9.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
the Candar Chief,
25th Oct. 1837.

(A. C.)

Cabool, 25th October 1837.

A FEW Days ago Alexander Burnes received Information that you are sending Mahomed Omar Khan to Persia. He privately asked me in the following Manner : — “ Notwithstanding the friendly Feeling which subsists between the English and Affghans, your Brother, it appears, is going to send his Son to Mahomed Shah ; how will it do to keep Foot in Two Boats? If they act by your Advice it is far from Wisdom. We (English) are looking for the Prosperity of the Household of the Affghans, and you, in return, are doing such Things. If you say that your Brothers at Candahar are taking this

this Step without your Advice the World will never believe it, because it is well known to the Europeans that Shah Shooja had nearly taken the City of Candahar, when you, being of One Blood, went with Troops and drove Shah Shooja from Candahar. It is, however, possible that these Matters at Candahar are going on without your Knowledge."

Mr. Burnes said many Things in this Style, and really I had no Answer to give him. Oh, my Brother, if you will do these Things without my Concurrence, what will the People of the World say to it? We have an Enemy.

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No. 9.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
the Candar Chief,
25th Oct. 1837.

No. 10.

Captain BURNES to the Chief of Candahar, Sirdar KOHEN DIL KHAN.

(A. C.)

Cabool, 24th October 1837.

I HAD the great Pleasure to receive your friendly Letter, the Arrival of which delighted me very much. What you said, that "by God the Feelings of Friendship which I entertain must correspond with those in your Breast, and will strengthen the Bonds of Amity; do not think otherwise," greatly pleased me; and I have been looking forward to the Time when I should see and know you, and hear all about this good Disposition from your own Mouth.

It is known to you that I came to this Quarter with good Intentions towards all Parties, and particularly to converse with all the Members of your Family; and I have received a very friendly Reception at Cabool.

At this Time I hear from various Quarters that you are sending your Son to Iran. When I look to the Contents of your Letter and to this Step I do not understand Matters, and believe that some Person has been deceiving me. It is not possible to hold Two Water Melons in One Hand; Unanimity in Families is a great Source of Power; Family Differences are the certain Cause of Evil; and foreseeing, as much as the feeble Intellect of Man can do, into Futurity, I see no good in the Step you now contemplate; even I see that the Fruit of the Matter will be nothing but Repentance and Loss; and wishing you well, I have thought it proper to warn you.

Let me hear from you that I may know you continue as much my Friend as I am yours.

No. 10.

Captain Burnes
to the
Chief of Candahar,
24th Oct. 1837.

No. 11.

Captain WADE, Political Agent at Loodiana, to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Loodiana, 28th October 1837.

IN forwarding the accompanying Packet to your Address from Captain Burnes, the Duplicate of it to the Bombay Government having been left open for my Perusal, I would beg to recall the Attention of the Right Honourable the Governor General to the Tenor of the Letter from his Excellency the British Ambassador in Persia to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Palmerston, dated the 30th of June last, notifying the Arrival at Tehran of Futteh Khan, the Envoy from Shah Kamran, to whom Captain Burnes's Letter refers.

In waiting on Mr. McNeill the Envoy in question had, it appears, assured his Excellency that though "the Government of Herat was sincerely desirous to come to some Arrangement with the Persian Government which should put an end to Hostilities between them, there was no Intention on the Part of the Herat Government to relinquish its Independence; that Kamram would not agree to renounce the Title of Shah, or to coin the Money in the Name of Mahomed Shah; and that, even if Kamram had been disposed to accede to the Terms, he did not dare to propose them to the Affghan Nation."

From the foregoing Extract the Deputation of Futteh Khan to Tehran would not seem to imply that "Shah Kamram had tendered his Homage to the Shah of Persia," but that he had been sent with a view to adjust, if possible by

(43.)

amicable

No. 11.

Captain Wade
to
the Secretary to the
Governor General,
28th Oct. 1837.

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No. 11.
 Captain Wade
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 28th Oct. 1837.

amicable Means, the conflicting Interests of the Governments of Herat and Persia; and our Ambassador had offered his Mediation to promote that Object, "considering the Preservation of the Sovereignty of Herat from the Government of Persia as precisely the Question in which the British Government was most interested."

It may appear an Act of Supererogation in me to add my Testimony to that of Mr. M'Neill as to the Basis on which the Negotiation should be conducted; but as his Lordship is aware of the extreme Importance which I have always attached to securing the Independence of Herat, whilst it is a Source of Satisfaction to me to find my View of the Subject confirmed by an Officer of the enlightened Judgment and long approved Experience of the present Ambassador in Persia, I cannot help agreeing in Opinion with Mr. M'Neill that it ought to be the primary Object of the British Government to "maintain, at all Hazards," for Reasons which I have often declared, the Integrity of Herat, as the only safe and sure Means of opposing the Efforts of Persia to annihilate the Independence of Affghanistan.

The Position in which our Discussions with respect to Herat are now placed is one from which no Consideration of Submission to the Views of Persia should, I think, divert our Attention. It may be presumed that His Persian Majesty will not dare to act in opposition to our Views and Wishes when openly avowed and steadily maintained. Although the Friendship of our Government may be less directly felt by Persia than her Alliance with the Russian Government, it is still sufficiently valuable to deter her, I should imagine, from seeking a Separation of Interests between the Two States; for supposing even that she were prepared to bid Defiance to British Counsels, the Shah cannot expect that we should remain Spectators of the Prosecution of Designs which threaten the Peace and Tranquillity of British India, and the Prosperity of our Commerce in Central Asia, without an Attempt to counteract them; and as Persia can scarcely pretend to encounter the probable Effects of our Indignation, it would surely be difficult for her to carry out her Schemes of Conquest towards Affghanistan without throwing herself on the Support of Russia, which, not having the Power of affording her effectual Aid in Money, would proffer it in Men; and the Result to Persia would be an Inundation of Russian Troops into the fairest Provinces of that Empire, which, though intended to advance, would eventually destroy, the Independence of the Persian Monarchy. When viewing therefore the real Interests of their Government, such is the Light in which I should infer that the Advisers of the King, and certainly the Majority of the People, would be inclined to regard the Consequences of offending the British Government.

No. 12.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 12.
 Captain Burnes
 to
 the Secretary to the
 Governor General,
 31st Oct. 1837.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 31st October 1837.

ON the Morning of the 22d I received, by a Messenger from Candahar, a full Account of the Proceedings at that City. The Chief had finally resolved on despatching his Second Son, Mahomed Omar Khan, to Persia, along with the Elchee, had fixed upon the Persons who were to compose his Suite, about 150 in Number, set aside 14,000 Rupees for the Expenses of the Journey, and made Provision for the Presents with which the Party is to be charged to the Shah and the Russian Ambassador. For His Majesty an Elephant is to be sent, for his Minister a Pair of Shawls, for the Russian Ambassador Four Shawls, for Abbas Khan Heratee Two Shawls, and Kumber Alee himself is to be dismissed with every Honour and Respect. To conciliate still further His Persian Majesty, the Name of the Sirdar's Son is changed from Omar Khan to Mudeed Khan, the former Designation being offensive to Mahomedans of the Sheeah Persuasion.

These Measures were adopted by the Advice of Hojee Khan Koker; but though he has, no Doubt, had some Share in the Transactions, there are Proofs of a much earlier Disposition in the Candahar Sirdars to cultivate a close

close Alliance with Persia, of which the late Deputation of Hajee Mobeen is not the least.

The Activity of the present Proceedings of the Candahar Sirdars is said to arise from Anxiety to strengthen themselves with Persia, under a Belief that their Brother in Cabool will receive, to their Exclusion, the Alliance of the British Government; for though these Chiefs would willingly co-operate with Dost Mahomed Khan on any Occasion where Barukzye Supremacy was endangered, they see, in the Advance of Persia Eastward, immediate Danger to themselves, and they rejoice in the Opportunity, which they think they possess in the Presence of a Persian Elchee, to conciliate the Shah, in whose Promises their Reliance seems firm. Since their Resolution has been taken the Persian Envoy, Kumber Alee Khan, has been introduced to many People in the City, and talked openly of the Connexion between Candahar and Persia, and the vast Benefits which must flow from it, which include a Promise of the Cession of Herat, when their combined Forces shall have subdued that City.

Since these Reports have reached this from other Correspondents than my own, there could be no Doubt that the Time had arrived for using every Exertion to put a Stop to this Intercourse; I therefore resolved to enter in the most unreserved Manner as to the Views entertained regarding his Brother's League with Persia. The Ameer himself, instead of receiving me at the Bala Hissar, came over in Person to our Residence, along with his Brother the Nawab, on the Morning of the 24th; and I now proceed to state the Nature of our Interview, which sets Dost Mahomed Khan's Conduct in a Light that must prove, as I believe, very gratifying to Government.

After we had conversed on the reported Approach of the Shah of Persia, of which the Ameer had also heard by Letter from Candahar on the preceding Evening, stating that His Majesty had arrived at Sharood, I asked at once if there was any Truth in the Rumours that had reached me of his Brother at Candahar sending one of his Sons to the Court of Persia. The Ameer at once replied, that the very Letter he had just mentioned, and which he showed to me, confirmed the Report, but that he had not heard direct on the Subject. I stated that I was anxious to inform him I saw no possible Good that could result to Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan in such a Step, and that I felt myself bound to tell him so. When Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk invaded this Kingdom in 1833, I added, you and your Brothers at Candahar acted in concert with one another; and the British Government, in evincing its Sympathy with the Difficulties under which your Family now labours, is not likely to be urged on to use its good Offices to allay Differences in the East, when fresh Causes to disturb the public Tranquillity of these Countries in the West receive Support at Candahar.

The Ameer declared to me, in the most explicit Manner, that if it was a Cause of Regret on our Part it was doubly so on his own, for he had himself bitterly repented his ever having had any thing to do with Persia, and the more so since he had received the Governor General's Notification of my Deputation to this Country; so much indeed had this been the Case, that he had refrained from entering with me into Particulars regarding Kumber Alee Khan's Mission, and that, what was further, he had resisted all Persuasion to send a Letter of Invitation to that Person when he reported his Arrival at Candahar; for, though he could not refuse to receive him after the Letters which he had addressed to the Shah, he saw clearly that it could not meet our Approbation, and that he was glad to say the Elchee in question would not advance beyond Candahar. This, he said, appeared to him the best Way in which he could mark his Desire to ally himself to the British Government; and he begged to assure me that the whole of these Transactions at Candahar were passing without his Concurrence and much against his Inclination.

I immediately replied that it was very pleasing to hear such Sentiments, for though I could not doubt, after the Declarations which I had heard since reaching Cabool, that these were his real Feelings, yet it had been stated that he had taken Offence at the Detention of the Envoy at Candahar, and had sent a confidential Agent there, which now appeared to be erroneous; I felt myself bound, however, I stated, to explain very clearly that neither he nor his Brother were to found Hopes of receiving Aid from the British Government.

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No. 12.

Captain Burnes
tothe Secretary to the
Governor General,
31st Oct. 1837.

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No. 12.
 Captain Burnes
 to
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 Governor General,
 31st Oct. 1837.

The British Government, if they had not taken any active Measures in these Countries, had now evinced their Sympathy, while a good Understanding between the Chiefs of Affghanistan must ultimately lead to the Benefit of all Parties, and to the Growth of that friendly Feeling now first evinced by the present Mission to this Country. I hoped therefore he would use his Influence at Candahar, for I also felt myself bound, after a friendly Communication which I had received from that Quarter, to address a friendly Letter of Advice to Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan.

The Ameer declared that he himself was much concerned at what had passed, and said that I should have asked him sooner to use his Influence, and he would have exerted himself long since. He saw clearly that the Designs of Persia were sinister, and that Russia, through her, was preparing to try her Fortune in these Countries, as the British had tried it in India; for this, too, they had themselves to blame, as that Court had found out, from the Applications of Kamran, of himself unfortunately, and of his Brothers at Candahar, that this Country is without Masters. But if the Affairs of Peshawur are adjusted His Persian Majesty will learn that the Case is otherwise; and whether the British Government interested itself or not, he was resolved to do every thing which he could to show his Respect for its Wishes, and conciliate it; and if he could not succeed he was equally determined to have nothing further to do with Persia. He would despatch a confidential Courier to Candahar this Evening, and remonstrate in the strongest Language with his Brothers; and further, if he could not change them in their Purpose, he would, if I advised it, put a stop to these Intrigues by Threats or by Force of Arms, for the Affghans had no Sympathy with Persia; and if Herat fell into the Hands of that Kingdom, it was Time to unite their Strength or to take Measures which would place the Resources of Cabool and Candahar in one Hand. I declared at once that the British Government would not give its Countenance to any such Step as active Operations against his Brother, but that if he succeeded in preventing Kohen Dil Khan from acting as he intended, it could not fail to be received as a strong Mark of his Desire for our Friendship, and, I would add, of great good Sense.

No. 13.

Captain WADE to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 13.
 Captain Wade
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 20th Nov. 1837.

(Extract.)

Loodiana, 20th November 1837.

CAPTAIN BURNES having favoured me with the Perusal of a Copy of his Letter of the 14th ultimo to your Address, I feel it my Duty to state that the interesting Report given by that Officer of the Condition of the Kuzzilbashes settled at Cabool corresponds with the Accounts which I have received of them during the Period of my Intercourse with the People of Affghanistan; but some Observations have occurred to me, in perusing Captain Burnes's Statement, which it appears to me important to record.

In considering the Position of the various Persian Colonies in and around the City of Cabool it is evident, from the Manner in which they have been allowed to fortify themselves from Time to Time, that their comparative Strength in the Calculation of the political Parties existing in that Country is such as to give them an opposing if not a predominant Influence in the Direction of its Affairs. While the Monarchy lasted the Kuzzilbashes shared largely in the Wealth and Favours of the Court; and, in contrasting their present Situation with the Prosperity and Consideration that they enjoyed when they formed the select personal Guard of their Royal Masters, they are sometimes ill able to conceal their Impatience of Submission to the absolute Control or capricious Conduct of a Chief who owes his Rise and Power chiefly to the Aid and Support which he received from one of their earliest Leaders, Mahomed Khan, Byat.

Alluding to that Chief Captain Burnes observes that he had been raised by Dost Mahomed Khan. It would, perhaps, be more correct to say that the Byat had raised the Ameer than the Ameer the Byat. On the Death of Azeen Khan, and the ephemeral Accession of his Son Abibulla Khan to his

Authority,

Authority, a Conspiracy was set on foot by Amirulla Lagan, the youngest Son of the late Mir Waiz, to overpower the Sheeahs, and take the Lives of some of their Chiefs; Mahomed Khan, Byat, was one of those who was devoted, by the Leader of the Cabooles, as the Party of Amirulla Khan and the Soonnees is called, to be the Victim of the religious Animosity of the Two Sects. Intelligence having been conveyed to him of the Design, the Byat immediately escaped from Cabool, and proceeded towards Ghiznee, for the Purpose of joining Dost Mahomed Khan, and inviting him to head an Attempt to overthrow his Nephew, the Result of which was a protracted Struggle, carried on within the Precinct of the City of Cabool, between the Two Parties, on which Occasion Sultan Mahomed Khan, of Peshawur, and the late Sheer Dil Khan, of Candahar, sided with Abibulla Khan. The vacillating System which Dost Mahomed Khan has pursued has, as might have been expected, compromised his Reputation for good Faith amongst these Colonists; and knowing their Power, they are not likely to desist from using every Effort on their Part that disappointed Hope and a Sense of Insult can suggest to oppose any Schemes which the Ameer may form to consolidate his own Rule, in which they may not be associated.

Had Dost Mahomed Khan felt himself powerful enough in the Government of Cabool, and so independent of Kuzzilbash Influence as to try the Experiment, he might have adopted the severe but vigorous Policy said to have been suggested to Shah Kamran by his Minister Yar Mahomed Khan, of expelling from Herat every Sheeah of Persian Extraction who resided in that City. The Shah had found that they were intriguing with Persia for his own Destruction, and when threatened by an immediate Invasion from that Quarter he had recourse to a Policy which was not only justified by the Urgency of the Occasion, but had the Merit of gratifying the religious Prejudices of his Nation, and of showing the Affghans the Sacrifices which he was ready to make rather than forfeit the Honour of his Country, by submitting tamely to the Yoke of a Government which was hateful to them. Kamran saw that there was a lurking Danger in the Presence of the Sheeahs more fatal to his political Existence than the Threats of his Enemy.

V.

No. 13.
Captain Wade
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
20th Nov. 1837.

No. 14.

Captain WADE to Mr. MACNAGHTEN.

(Extract.)

Loodiana, 29th November 1837.

HAD not an Alarm of the Extent to which Dost Mahomed may carry his own Projects of Ambition gained strong Possession of the Minds of the Candahar Chiefs, both from the Intercourse of Captain Burnes with their rival Brother, and the late Acts of the Ameer in displacing his Relations from Authority to exalt his Son, thereby securing the Administration of the Country in his own Family, it is probable that his Brothers of Candahar might have agreed to the Deputation of Mehir Dil Khan to Cabool, as originally intended; though it may be doubted if his Presence there would have been productive of any Benefit to either Party so long as the Difference between Dost Mahomed Khan and his other Brothers at Peshawur formed no Object of the Ameer's Care, and he cherished the Design of aggrandizing himself in that Territory, without regard for the pre-existing Rights and acknowledged Interests of his ejected Brothers, in whose Misfortunes the others feel a deep Sympathy. With what Confidence could the Chiefs of Candahar rely for their own Independence on the Professions of a Party which they found wished to make his Quarrel with the Sikhs a Stepping-stone to the Degradation of a Brother to whom one of them is devotedly attached, and on whose Welfare the Nawab Jubbar Khan also takes a great Interest?

I may remark, that there was no Concert or Consultation between the Rulers of Candahar and Cabool in their Overtures to Persia. The Chief of Candahar was the first to make them, while Cabool followed.

No. 14.
Captain Wade
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
29th Nov. 1837.

No. 15.

V.

No. 15.
 Captain Wade
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 1st Jan. 1838.

Captain WADE, Political Agent at Loodiana, to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esquire,
 Secretary to the Governor General of India.

(Extract.)

Loodiana, 1st January 1838.

CAPTAIN BURNES has left open for my Perusal the Copy of his Report to your Address.

The Information contained in his Paper is on a Subject of such immediate Interest to the British Government as to suggest the Importance of an attentive Consideration of its Contents; but as I am obliged to hasten this Despatch I have little Leisure to accompany it with my own Observations in the Course of Transmission. Any Remarks that I may now offer will therefore be regarded as of a more cursory Nature than I could have wished to make, had I Time to do so, on many of the Points noticed by Captain Burnes.

Cabool is a City of modern Date, not only in its political but commercial Character. In both these respects it cannot claim equal Eminence either with Candahar or Herat, which have from a remote Antiquity been the Seats of Empire, and a Commerce which has forced its Way through them in the Midst of every Change of Dynasty and the Obstacles arising to its Growth from the Anarchy and Confusion of successive Governments. Sometimes the Merchant has been allowed to pursue his Traffic in Peace, while at another he has been subject to the Tyranny and Oppression of needy and rapacious Chiefs, who, to extricate themselves from their financial Distresses, have considered the Pillage of a Caravan as a legitimate Means of replenishing their Treasury.

In the Time of the Caliphat the flourishing Commerce which existed between Bagdad and the central Regions of Asia was principally concentrated at Candahar and Herat, and it is only since the Decline of the Dooraunee Monarchy that Cabool can be said to have become a Place of any Note. Its secluded Position, the Excellence of its Climate, and the tractable Disposition of its original Inhabitants, recommended its Selection for the Seat of his Government to Timour Shah, to whose Love of Ease and Luxury his Countrymen have ascribed the gradual Decay of that Power which owed its Origin to the Genius and Activity of his Father Ahmed Shah.

There is no Portion of the remaining Empire of the Affghans which has been less exempt from the Factions of Party and the Revolutions to which the Government of the Country has been exposed than the City of Cabool. It has been the chief Scene of the Struggles which have been maintained for Supremacy, not only between the Barukzyes and Suddozyes, but the Pretenders to Power among the different Members of the Barukzye Family among themselves; while Candahar and Herat have been comparatively free from these intestine Broils. The Brothers of Dost Mohamed Khan had succeeded in establishing their Authority in Peshawur and Candahar before the Ameer had established himself in Cabool. His Tenure of Power in that City has been very insecure. Popular Commotions have occasionally broken out, which he has found it difficult to suppress; and even after his late Success against the Sikhs, such was the Feeling of Parties towards him that, had it not been for the Arrival of the British Mission, nothing could have saved him from the Combination which his Brothers had formed to overthrow his Authority. His Sense of Danger from internal Enemies has made him as anxious for the Alliance of a Foreign Power as his Fear of the Sikhs.

With regard to the Account given of the Chiefship of Cabool, the Means and Character of Dost Mahomed, and his Connexion with his Neighbours, I need at present merely observe, that too much Weight appears to be laid on the Professions of Homage ascribed to be rendered to him from his Candahar Brothers, at the same Time that too favourable an Account is given, not only of the Popularity of his Rule, but the Efficiency of his Army. My own Sources of Information, which have been repeatedly authenticated both by Natives and Europeans who have visited Cabool, lead me to believe that the Authority of the Ameer is by no means popular with his Subjects, and many Instances in confirmation of the Fact might be adduced from the Reports of Mr. Masson, even when that Individual has been willing to render every Justice

tice to Dost Mahomed Khan's Abilities. The greater Part of his Troops are disaffected and insubordinate, and, though well equipped with Arms, are generally very deficient in the Qualities which constitute good Soldiers. Their Behaviour at Jumrood is admitted, by none more readily than the Ameer himself, to have exhibited their Discipline and their Courage in a discreditable Manner; and in alluding to the Action which occurred there, I may state, that too great an Importance would now seem to have been attached to the partial Success of the Affghans on that Occasion. The Impression which resulted from it was such as to convince the Men of Dost Mahomed's Army of their Inability to contend with the Sikhs.

Captain Burnes has aptly observed, that the Want of Success which attended Shah Shooja's late Attempt to recover Dominion, was partly owing to his own Irresolution of Character; but in estimating his Chances of Success the Opinion which he has expressed is directly at variance with that of other Persons, who have treated of the Subject from personal Intercourse, and an intimate Knowledge of the Sentiments of the People. It is necessary that I should recur to the Events which transpired at the Time of the Shah's last Expedition. At the Commencement of it Dost Mahomed Khan tendered his Submission to our Government; while Runjeet Sing, failing in his Desire to engage the British Government openly in the Design, concluded a separate Treaty with Shah Shooja, and gave him Aid in support of his Pretensions. A Report of these Transactions will be found minutely detailed in my Letter, with Enclosures, to your Address dated 17th June 1834; but Government would not then adopt the Views of either Party.

In addition to the Documents to which I have referred, I would also beg to draw the Notice of the Right Hon. the Governor General, on the present important Occasion, to the Report submitted from Mr. Masson, in my Letter of the 27th of November 1834, on the political State and Resources of Affghanistan, in which it will be seen that, though the Barukzyes claimed a Victory, the Disaffection which existed among themselves, as well as their Troops, had nearly changed the Fate of the Day without a Contest. At a subsequent Period, when describing the Retreat of Dost Mahomed from his fruitless Enterprize against the Sikhs in 1835, and the Discontent which then prevailed at Cabool, Mr. Masson made the following Remark:—

“The Failure of Shah Shooja is now most sincerely lamented. I myself rejoiced at it at the Time; but the Course of Events seems to prove that his Success would have been felicitous to the Countries. The Wishes of all Classes turn to his Restoration.”

In another Place he observes: “In the recent Effort of Shah Shooja there is little Doubt but that had a single British Officer accompanied him, not as an Ally or Coadjutor, but as a mere Reporter of Proceedings to his own Government, his simple Appearance would have been sufficient to have procured the Shah's Re-establishment in Power.”

To the Observations of Mr. Masson I may add that of his Excellency the British Envoy now in Persia. In his Letter to your Address of the 22d January last, on the State of Affghanistan, he states: “Though the Sovereignty of the Affghans has passed out of the Hands of Ahmed Shah, the Dooraunee Tribe appears to maintain an undoubted Ascendancy in the Nation. The Barukzyes have usurped the greater Portion of the Power of the Suddozyes; but the latter Family still maintains itself in Herat, and has a strong Hold on the Prejudices, if not on the Affections, of a large Portion of the Dooraunees.”

These Opinions, declared by Parties viewing the Subject both far and near, and well acquainted with its Merits, will not be overlooked, if actual Habitation with the Affghans in the one Case, and the long Experience of an able Servant of the British Government in the Affairs of their Country in the other, can give Weight to the Testimony which they have delivered.

Mr. McNeill has also remarked, that the Barukzyes holding Cabool and Candahar in Independence would not appear to have conciliated the Attachment of the Dooraunees, who depend in a great Measure for their Power on Influences foreign to their Tribe. To force their Rule, therefore, on the People, would not only be a difficult Operation in itself, but, if sought to be effected through the Mediation of the British Government, would require a Degree of Support from us which we cannot, in my Opinion, afford to give to the present

V.

No. 15.
 Captain Wade
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 1st Jan. 1838.

Possessors of Power in Affghanistan, or rather to the Ruler of Cabool, without bringing new Elements of Discord into Action, productive of more Evil to the Peace of the Country than the Preservation of the Sovereignty of the Affghans in the Suddozye Family, at the same Time that we profess every Desire to respect the Independence of each in his present Authority, and assist them, by our Influence and Advice, in consolidating their national Strength and Security from the ambitious Views of Persia.

After the late Encounter with the Sikhs the Disputes of Parties at Cabool ran so high that, had the Shah appeared in the Country, he might, I am informed, have become Master of Cabool and Candahar in Two Months; and Dost Mahomed Khan is not to be trusted, an Opinion for which I have not only the Authority of Mr. Masson, but of his Countrymen, who know him best.

Mr. Masson says: "I must confess I am not very sanguine as to any very favourable Result from Negotiations with the Barukzyes. They are indeed their own Enemies; but their eternal and unholy Dissensions and Enmities have brought them to be considered as Pests to the Country, and the Likelihood is that Affairs will become worse, not better. The British Government could employ Interference without offending Half-a-dozen Individuals. Shah Shooja, under their Auspices, would not even encounter Opposition; and the Ameer and his Friends, if he have any, must yield to his Terms, or become Fugitives. No slight Advantage, were Shah Shooja at the Head of Government here, would be, that from his Residence among Europeans he would view their Intercourse in these Countries without Jealousy, which cannot be expected from the present Rulers but after a long Period and until better Acquaintance may remove their Distrust."

In a Report which he also sent to me, dated the 9th of August 1833, on the State of Affghanistan, and the Necessity of its Organization, in discussing the political Views and Character of Dost Mahomed, he wrote: "It is a Part of Sirdar Dost Mahomed Khan's Creed that he ought never to go to War with the Persians; he is ambitious, and would serve himself."

Regarding the Condition of his Troops, and the Want of Confidence which exists between the Ameer and his Subjects, even at the present Time, I might, if necessary, quote the Opinion of an intelligent Englishman who lately proceeded to Cabool. In further Exposition of the Sentiments and Opinions which I have deemed it my Duty to record on the relative Claims of the Two Tribes which at present divide between them, in a great Measure, the Government of Affghanistan, it may be likewise mentioned that the Barukzyes, instead of being a Tribe of 60,000 Men, as computed by Captain Burnes on his Visit to that Country in 1832, do not exceed 6,000; that the rest of the Dooraines would be indignant to see the Power of the British Government exerted to establish the supreme Control of the Barukzyes over their Nation; and that the Act would in itself tend to injure the Name of the British Government among a People tenacious of Independence, and yet alive to the Preservation of hereditary Honours and ancient Institutions. I submit my Opinions with every Deference in the Wisdom of his Lordship's Decision; but it occurs to me that less Violence would be done to the Prejudices of the People, and to the Safety and Well-being of our Relations with other Powers, by facilitating the Restoration of Shah Shooja than by forcing the Affghans to submit to the Sovereignty of the Ameer.

Were it practicable, it would not be safe to place Herat in the Possession of the Barukzyes. Their Predilections for a Persian Alliance, and their doubtful Faith, would render their Occupation of that Place more dangerous to the Interests of the British Government than if it remain in the Hands of the Suddozyes. Suppose, however, that Herat were to fall into the Power of Persia; that Government, whatever may be its Promises to the Barukzye Chiefs, is too sensible of the Importance of such an Acquisition to the Extension of her Dominion in the Eastern Part of Affghanistan to think of resigning it to the Barukzyes, or to desist from her Attempts to conquer the Place, were it in the Possession of the Barukzyes.

It may be well to consider also what Interest Maharajah Runjeet Sing would feel in the Choice of a Head for the general Government of Affghanistan. No Argument need be urged to show that any Effort on the Part of our Government to subvert the existing Division of Power for the Benefit of the present

present Ruler of Cabool would be received with extreme Impatience by the rest of his Family, and be displeasing to the Majority of the Nation. The mutual Jealousies and Differences of the one, and the Habits and Prejudices of the other, would rise in Indignation against such a Design, and a Host of Enemies would be raised towards ourselves among a People who, since the Time of our first Connexion with them, have been disposed to regard us with a friendly Feeling. Considering the Feelings of Hostility with which the Maharajah views Dost Mahomed, and that he is now scarcely restrained from prosecuting the War against the Ameer, his Highness will not, in my Opinion, be persuaded to abandon his hostile Designs on Cabool without desiring to obtain Terms of Submission from its Chief to which the British Government would not wish to become a Party. From these and other Motives Runjeet Sing would be brought with Difficulty, I think, to acknowledge the Elevation of Dost Mahomed Khan to the Sovereignty of the Affghans, while, should the Consolidation of that People become a Measure of indispensable Necessity to the Establishment of Security on the Frontier of the Indus, the Election of Shah Shooja would only be in fulfilment of the Compact which was formerly made with him, and would exact no new Concessions.

A Co-operation in the same Object is likely, it occurs to me, to be more acceptable to the Ameers of Sinde than a forcible Imposition of Barukzye Rule on the Fragments of the Affghan Empire.

The deadly Nature of the Feud which exists between the Ruler of Herat and the Barukzye Chiefs renders, I fear, the Prospect of a Reconciliation between them very hopeless; but its Bitterness does not extend to Shah Shooja, who, although he has been at War with the Barukzyes, has never been guilty of those Cruelties towards the Leaders of the Tribe that have disgraced the other Members of his Family. At the same Time the matrimonial Alliance which connects the ex-King with a Sister of the Ameer would certainly have its Weight in any Efforts that might be used to reconcile the Shah to the only one of the Barukzye Leaders who would be likely to evince a Reluctance to acknowledge his Claim to be Sovereign of the Affghans. Shah Shooja's Recognition could only, however, be justified or demanded of us in the Event of the Prostration of Herat to the Persian Government. I am convinced that nothing but an Intimation of our Wishes, and an Assurance of Safety, which the Shah would readily give to the British Government, in any Way that might be deemed expedient, would be requisite to unite the Two Parties in the common Object of preserving the Independence of their Country from the Dominion of Persia.

No. 16.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 26th January 1838.

REGARDING the Overtures made by Dost Mahomed Khan for adjusting his Difference with the Sikhs, and the Apprehension that the Maharajah would not be disposed to surrender Peshawur on those Terms, but be more likely to restore it to Sultan Mahomed Khan, its former Governor, I lost no Time in making known these Circumstances, and the Policy which it would be advisable for the Ruler of Cabool to pursue.

After listening with considerable Attention to what I impressed upon him, the Ameer proceeded to make his own Comments on what was recommended. He said that he felt satisfied that the British Government was actuated by the most pure and upright Motives in making known its Sympathy with the Sufferings of the Affghan Nation, and that, in seeking to apply some Remedy to them, it only followed the generous Course for which it was celebrated throughout Asia; that there were, however, Obstacles and Objections to what had been recommended which it behoved him to unfold before any Adjustment of Differences on such Terms was carried into effect.

"In offering to render Tribute, Horses, and Apology to Runjeet Sing, and to hold Peshawur under him," continued he, "I was actuated by no Motive of Hostility to Sultan Mahomed Khan; he is my Brother, and though we have differed,

V.

No. 15.

Captain Wade
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
1st Jan. 1838.

No. 16.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
26th Jan. 1838.

V.

No. 16.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 26th Jan. 1838.

differed, the Rank is on his Side, and not on mine. I stated that I would secure to him and his Brothers the Jagheers they enjoy; and this, with what would have to be paid, would not have rendered it a very profitable Appendage to my Power; for these were precautionary Measures to secure myself in Cabool, and prevent Injury befalling me. Of Runjeet Sing's Power to invade me in Cabool, I have little Fear of his Power to injure me. If he reinstates Sultan Mahomed Khan in the Government of that City, I have great Apprehension, for in it I see a Mahomedan Ruler instead of a Sikh; and had the Maharajah been more conversant with the Politics of Affghanistan, and bent on my Destruction, he might ere this have succeeded, had he not displaced Sultan Mahomed Khan from Peshawur, and supplied him with Funds to corrupt those about me who are inimical, and envy the Rise to my present Elevation.

"At the present Time many of the Chiefs who belonged to Peshawur and their Retainers are subsisted by me. They fled from their Country on its Invasion by the Enemies of our Religion, and on my Brother becoming a Servant to them. It cannot be supposed that, with my limited Revenues, I can either give to these Persons what they are entitled to, or what they received in their own Country; but at this Moment I expend about 90,000 Rupees annually in giving them Bread. When Peshawur is restored these Individuals will of course leave me, and along with them will proceed every one who may take Offence at his Merits not being appreciated as he considers they deserve; and thus, instead of being freed from Enemies, I shall be lowered among my Countrymen far below my present Situation, and, far from being free from Danger, as at present, have that Situation most certainly endangered. I think, therefore, that I see in the contemplated Plans for altering the Arrangement for governing Peshawur a Rectification of the Errors of the Ruler of Lahore, and that his Designs are sinister, and his Object to draw the British Government unawares into them.

"In the friendly Expression of the Feeling entertained towards the Affghans by the British Government I see clearly that it would not permit itself to be made a Party to my Destruction. If you are not disposed to strengthen my Hands, and raise me above the Rank which I at present enjoy, it cannot be your Intention with Offers of Sympathy to bring about my Ruin. On that Point I am at Ease; but in separating us all one from another, in seeking to keep the Chiefs from being dependent on one another, you are certainly neutralizing the Power of the Affghan Nation, and sowing the Seeds of future Dissension. Your Object is to prevent Harm; you will also prevent Good. You will secure to yourselves the Gratitude of Peshawur, of the Eusefzyes, the Khuttucks, and the Tribes near the Indus; but as for myself you open a new Door of Intrigue against me; and as you saw Injury likely to accrue from the Chief of Candahar entering on an Alliance with Persia, I see Injury to myself in Sultan Mahomed Khan, when restored to his Chiefship of Peshawur, being in Alliance with Lahore; and, above all, what Security am I to have that the Chiefs of Peshawur and Candahar will not join to injure me, and be aided in their Designs by Maharajah Runjeet Sing?"

To these Arguments I opposed the Views of the British Government, and said that it would ill tally with its Wishes to find new Causes of Quarrel arise consequent on an Adjustment of the Differences between the Sikhs and Affghans; that, as the Ameer had renounced his Connexion with Persia, we had in return hoped to do him a good Office by entering into a Negotiation with Runjeet Sing on the Differences existing between them; but that, if he was thoroughly sincere in his Belief that the Restoration of Peshawur to Sultan Mahomed Khan was positively injurious to him, it was proper to state most decidedly that we had no such Design.

To this Dost Mahomed Khan replied, that there were no Doubt many Advantages in Prospect, and that the Arguments adduced had both Foundation and Solidity, but that the Advantages were chiefly on the Side of others; that he had hitherto been able to stand on the defensive against Runjeet Sing, and to do it with some Effect; that that Ruler's Withdrawal was more injurious to him on the Terms proposed than his Continuance at Peshawur; that he himself now received a Degree of Respect which he could then no longer command; and that it was better to leave Things as they were, in the Hopes of some future Change, than to shackle himself by being Party to an Arrangement which

which did him little Good, and seemed fraught with Danger, and in return for which Things might be expected of him which he would not perform. "Peshawur," said he, "has been conquered by the Sikhs; it belongs to them; they may give it to whomsoever they please; if to Sultan Mahomed Khan, they place it in the Hands of one who is bent on injuring me; and I cannot therefore acknowledge any Degree of Gratitude for your Interference, or take upon myself to render Services in return."

The Nawab Jubbar Khan followed his Brother, and said, it was undoubtedly true that the Ameer had not mistaken the Evils which might ensue to himself from the entire Restoration of Peshawur to Sultan Mahomed Khan; but that the Affghan Nation could not afford to lose the Sympathy which had been exhibited by the British Government; and an Arrangement might be made on the Basis of a Treaty which Runjeet Sing had once entered into with the Ameer and his deceased Brother Yar Mahomed Khan, which was to divide Peshawur between them, and receive equally at their Hands a fixed Tribute. Such an Arrangement might now be made, and the Ameer would be free from Fear of Injury, and Runjeet Sing receive, from him and Sultan Mahomed Khan conjointly, the Amount on which he was disposed to surrender it. The Ameer added, that such an Arrangement would remove his Fears, and he should wish no other Person placed there but the Nawab himself, and one or Two of his own Agents under him.

To the Proposition of the Nawab, and the Observations of the Ameer which followed upon it, I made no further Remark than that the Plan would also be taken into consideration; but before proceeding further it was incumbent on me to ask one categorical Question: Was I to consider that he would rather have the Sikhs in Peshawur, in preference to Sultan Mahomed Khan's being restored to his Government in that City?

The Ameer replied, that this was certainly placing the Matter in an extreme Light, and that he found a Difficulty in answering the Question; he would candidly ask in return, if the Mode of accomplishing an Act generally beneficial were proved to be detrimental to himself, who had the most substantial Share of Power in the Affghan Dominions at this Time, it could be said to be applying a Remedy to the Difficulties under which the Affghans laboured; and if, in return for it, the British Government would reckon on those Acts which all Powers naturally look to in return for Benefits conferred. I ask you not to aid me in achieving a Supremacy throughout this Country; but I do ask to be allowed to stand in the Position in which you have found me. If I can be protected from Intrigues in Peshawur I will then consider myself benefited, but without such a Plan as that which the Nawab has stated, or some such other, that places a Barukzye there, which the Governor General must devise, I foresee Evils which cannot have entered into the Minds of those who are my Well-wishers.

I have thus placed before the Right Honourable the Governor General the Opinion and Views entertained by the Ruler of Cabool, and the Nature of the Arguments which I have opposed to them.

V.

No. 16.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
26th Jan. 1838.

No. 17.

Ameer DOST MAHOMED KHAN to Lord AUCKLAND.

After Compliments.

THE respectable Captain A. Burnes, whom your Lordship had graciously appointed to strengthen the Bonds of Friendship, to improve the Commerce and the going and coming to this Country, and to do Good to Affghanistan, safely reached this, and delivered to me the kind Letter of your Lordship. I was delighted to learn its Contents, and highly gratified with the good and friendly Expressions it contained. The Report of these happy Tidings has been widely spread throughout this Country, and made me highly rejoice.

Knowing that the Conversation which I have held with Captain Burnes will be as clearly and comprehensively reported as if I had myself conversed with your Lordship, I did not think it right to give your Lordship Trouble by its Repetition here.

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No. 17.
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
Lord Auckland.

V.

No. 17.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
Lord Auckland.

I have now heard of the Approach of your Lordship towards Loodiana, in this Neighbourhood, and I have thought it therefore incumbent on me to send this friendly Letter.

Nothing is hidden from your Lordship which is passing in this Country; I therefore repose entire Confidence in your Lordship. I am aware of the favourable Disposition which your Lordship entertains towards supporting and strengthening my Government.

I beg your Lordship, considering me attached to the British Government, will be pleased to bestow early Attention on the Affairs of this Quarter, as from delaying, Difficulties arise, which may not hereafter be put in order with Facility.

No. 18.

The GOVERNOR GENERAL of INDIA to Ameer Dost MAHOMED KHAN.

No. 18.
Lord Auckland
to
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
20th Jan. 1838.

After Compliments.

Camp at Bareilly, 20th January 1838.

I HAVE received with great Satisfaction repeated Accounts from Captain Burnes of the cordial and friendly Reception which you have given to his Mission, and of the Disposition which you have evinced to meet the Views of the British Government. This Intelligence has been very acceptable to me, and has confirmed my Desire to mark the friendly Feelings with which I regard you and the other Chiefs of Affghanistan.

My Friend Captain Burnes has explained to me the different Propositions which you have made to him, and your Desire to obtain Possession, on certain Conditions specified by you, of the Territory of Peshawur, now held by Maharajah Runjeet Sing.

In regard to your Relations with the other Chiefs of Affghanistan, my Desire has always been that each should respect the Rights of the others, and that all should maintain Peace.

It has been my great Wish, as far as the Means presented themselves to me, to induce all to live on Terms of mutual Friendship. By Dissension and Distrust Room is afforded to intriguing Persons to excite one Chief against another, and in the End forward their own Purposes to the Injury of all.

In regard to Peshawur, Truth compels me to urge strongly on you to relinquish the Idea of obtaining the Government of that Territory. From the Generosity of his Nature, and his Regard for his old Alliance with the British Government, Maharajah Runjeet Sing has acceded to my Wish for the Cessation of Strife and the Promotion of Tranquillity, if you should behave in a less mistaken Manner towards him. It becomes you to think earnestly on the Mode in which you may effect a Reconciliation with that powerful Prince, to whom my Nation is united by the direct Bonds of Friendship, and to abandon Hopes which cannot be realized.

The Interference in your Behalf which my Regard to yourself and for the Affghan People had led me to exercise has hitherto protected you from the Continuance of a War which would have been ruinous to you; and if you can establish equitable Terms of Peace with the Maharajah, you will enjoy, in a Security which has long been unknown to you, ample Means of Dignity and Honour, and the Territory which is actually under your Government. To lead you to hope for more than this would be to deceive you; and even for this Object, although my good Offices would readily be employed for you, I would always be careful so to act as to consult the Interests and Honour and obtain the Concurrence of the Sikh Sovereign, who is the firm and eminent Ally of my Country.

I need not state to you that the English Nation is faithful to its Engagements and true to its Word. It is on this Account that I have written plainly to you, that you may understand correctly the Assistance which you may expect from me. This Assistance also cannot be granted if you form any Connexion with other Powers unsanctioned by this Government. If you wish for its Countenance and Friendship you must repose Confidence in its good Offices alone.

Should

Should you be dissatisfied with the Aid I have mentioned from this Government, which is all that I think can in Justice be granted, or should you seek Connexion with other Powers without my Approbation, Captain Burnes, and the Gentlemen accompanying him, will retire from Cabool, where his further Stay cannot be advantageous; and I shall have to regret my Inability to continue my Influence in your Favour with the Maharajah. I am persuaded that you will recognize the friendly Feeling which has led me to state the Truth to you, as you can guide your Actions as you may consider most proper for yourself. I trust that the Result of your Negotiations on this important Subject will be such as to promote your real Advantage, to conduce to the Prosperity and Peace of your own and of all neighbouring Territories, which are Objects very dear to me, and to preserve and increase the Sentiments of Regard which I have always entertained for you.

I am gratified by the great Confidence which you place in Captain Burnes; he has your Welfare at Heart; he reports to me faithfully all your Wishes; he is fully informed of my Opinions, and will assure you of the Kindness which I would always wish to show to you and other Affghans, who are a brave People much respected by the English Nation.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

AUCKLAND.

V.

No. 18.

Lord Auckland
to

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
20th Jan. 1838.

No. 19.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 23d February 1838.

I HAVE now the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, the Result of my Proceedings, as far as they have gone, consequent on the Arrival of your Express of the 20th ultimo, which I Yesterday acknowledged.

No. 19.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
23d Feb. 1838.

The Mode in which the Ameer of Cabool received the Views of Government concerning Peshawur, as reported in my Letter of the 26th ultimo, rendered the Arrival of his Lordship's Instructions more than satisfactory, for the Time had arrived for a very frank and clear Explanation with the Chief of Cabool, and I lost no Time in coming to an Understanding with him.

It will be seen regarding Captain Vickovitch, that the Ameer had professed his Inability to wait longer than the Vernal Equinox if an Adjustment were not made regarding Peshawur. Had I followed my own Inclination I would not have sat down for a Day under such a Declaration, but I was ignorant of the Light in which Government would view Captain Vickovitch's Presence at Cabool, and Affairs to the West were getting every Day more complicated, the Persians having not only held their Position before Herat, but overrun Meimuna, and the adjacent States being now actually without any People between them and Cabool itself, excepting the Hazarehs, who are all of the Sheeah Persuasion, and linked by Religion and Alliance to the Kuzzilbash Faction in this City.

Any withholding of what were his Lordship's decided Views regarding Cabool would have been as unjust to the Ameer as to ourselves; and I had become meanwhile informed of the further Communications of Captain Vickovitch, which went to inform the Ameer that the Emperor of Russia was superior in his Dominions, and could act, of himself, with Promptitude, and without being delayed by consulting others; while the British Government transacted its Business by a Council (Punchayet), which gave rise to Procrastination, and would show to him the Advantage of allying himself to Russia, where no such Inconveniences existed; and further, that the Emperor's Good-will towards him would never then let Persia encroach in this Quarter. If these Sentiments had any Weight with Dost Mahomed Khan it followed that our Position here was of little Value, and that every Day's Delay rendered it less so, setting aside the valid Objection that the Ameer could never be permitted to play off Russia against us in any Terms that he might make.

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No. 19.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 23d Feb. 1838.

Under these Circumstances I resolved at once to deliver to him the Governor General's Letter, since it contained an explicit Statement of our Sentiments and Intentions, which he had so much courted, and on the Absence of which he founded his Grounds for retaining Captain Vickovitch at Cabool. I sought an Interview with the Ameer, and was immediately invited to the Balar Hissar Yesterday, when the Explanation took place.

I at once informed Dost Mahomed Khan that I had come to communicate with him on Matters of grave Importance. I briefly ran over the Events which had brought me to Cabool, and the primary Objects connected with it; how we sought to improve his and our own Commerce by friendly Intercourse; how an unfortunate Conflict had meanwhile taken place between Maharajah Runjeet Sing and himself; how that Chief had been disposed to act in Harmony with the British Government regarding a Removal of future Differences near Peshawur, though that was a Question to be decided wholly by the Maharajah himself; how the Ameer had received the proposed Alteration, and the Offers he had in consequence made. During the Deliberation which those Matters required, continued I, the Persians have invaded Khorassan, invested Herat, and disturbed Men's Minds in these Countries, of which the Kuzzilbashes in Cabool had availed themselves to give Counsel that was certainly injurious to his Interests, and which I inferred, as I had a Right to do, from what had passed in answering the Letters from Russia, had some Influence over him, since he had spoken of the Vernal Equinox being the Limit of his Delay, after which he would transfer Hopes to the Messages which Captain Vickovitch had delivered to him.

With regard to what the Kuzzilbashes had urged upon him, I would remind him, that we were a Nation freed from religious Prejudices, and that we regarded Sheeahs and Soonees alike; but that the Affghans were a People strongly imbued with the Tenets peculiar to the latter; and that he should suspect those who advised Acts at variance with national Feeling, and suspect them the more when I, who told him so, was a Servant of a Government on good Terms with Persia, and which was disposed to be on an equally good Footing with the Affghans. If it had been to him a Source of Regret that he must take Measures after the Equinox, it was doubly so to me; for we were disposed to intercede, in behalf of the Affghan Nation, with their formidable Opponent, the Ruler of Lahore, to prevent further Strife; but that such good Offices did not appear to be appreciated as they deserved. From the Affairs of Peshawur, continued I, you have gone suddenly to those of Herat, and what with Persian and Russian Emissaries, it is pressed upon you to look to that Quarter, and perform a Service which would gain for you your Objects in Peshawur. These, continued I, are Opinions fraught with Error and Ruin. Could you leave Cabool to aid or to resist the Shah of Persia with a Sikh Force in Peshawur amounting to 35,000 Men? It is impossible; and the Advantages of cultivating an Alliance with the British were apparent from the very Fact that this formidable Power on the Eastern Frontier had ceased to molest him the Moment its Agent had entered Affghanistan. I had therefore now to tell him that Delay till the Vernal Equinox was perfectly unnecessary, that he would find the Views of the Governor General in the Letter which I here presented to him, and which, as his Friend and Well-wisher, I begged him to read and weigh with the Attention they deserved.

Before the Letter was opened the Ameer assured me that he placed the Alliance of the British Government in no Sort of Comparison with that of any other Nation; that it was true there were those who advised him as I had stated. I said I could fairly acquit him of having expressed any such Sentiments, and that I had from the whole Tenor of his Conduct since my Arrival become convinced of his being well disposed to my Government; but that the limiting a Time to its Deliberations, if it passed unnoticed by me to him, Six Days ago, was by no Means unobserved, and I did not think it indicative of a Tone of thinking which was due to a friendly Power that could substantially serve him. He excused himself by saying that he was obliged to give some Answer for the Honour which had been conferred upon him; and the Interest which had been exhibited by Russia deserved Acknowledgment; and if he had spoken of "Noo Roz" as the Time proper for coming to an Adjustment it was that his Suspense had led him to use such an Expression, as his Chiefs and People were constantly taunting him,

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The Letter was now opened, and read over twice with great Attention by Meerza Samee Khan, who, excepting Aga Hoosein, one of his Counsellors, and another Meerza, were the only Persons present. I explained the Import of all those Passages which he required. After a short Reflection and some Expressions of Disappointment, he stated that the Governor General's Letter was full of Meaning, and that his Lordship's Sympathy with the Affghan People was very gratifying; but that he had already expressed his Views regarding Peshawur, and unless Government lent its good Offices to him, supposing Runjeet Sing to restore it to Sultan Mahomed Khan, he would suffer materially by it, and, through him, the People over whom Providence allowed him to rule; that I had made an Observation to him regarding his Inability to move from Cabool, while Peace did not exist on his Eastern Frontier, which was Truth, and which he admitted; but that there was no pressing Danger to him from that Quarter, and he could stay at Cabool; that he feared the Case of the Affghans was, like that of most unfortunate People, they had no Friends; that he had placed his all in the Hands of the British Government; and that, if it blamed him for having written to others, he begged to declare he never would have done so if he had known an Agent was to have been sent to Cabool; that though he was unable to do much for himself, he might assist others, and perform very substantial Service in this Quarter for the British Government; that he was now told he was indebted to Runjeet Sing for the Dress which he wore, which he could not admit; and further, that he inferred from the Letter that it was thought his Duty to send Presents to Maharajah Runjeet Sing, who had never subdued him, which he certainly did not understand; that it was, however, true that a Good-will had subsisted between the British and the Affghans from the Days of Mr. Elphinstone downwards, and that our Wisdom and Word were a Theme of Praise, which led him to reflect seriously on what best suited his Interests before he made any Answer to the Governor General.

I replied, that it was a wise Course which he meant to pursue, in weighing well before he acted; and I would advise him to choose good Counsellors before he let slip the Opportunity of having the friendly Sympathy of the British Government evinced. It was true, I said, that it expected him to live, if not on cordial, most certainly on apparently harmonious Terms with Runjeet Sing; but I did not infer that he was to send Presents to Lahore; nor did I feel it my Duty to counsel any such Procedure; but, I added, that if the Ruler of Lahore ceases to molest you, Peace will naturally follow, and all the happy Consequences attendant upon it. That I would now leave him to discuss, with his Advisers, what he should do.

I took the Occasion to tell him, that I, as his Well-wisher, would advise him to reflect deeply before he lost the Good-will of the British, and that his entering into any political Intercourse with others must be considered by us a direct Breach of Friendship. On this I withdrew.

In the Afternoon, and again this Morning, the Ameer sent Meerza Samee Khan to assure me that no Measure would be taken, of what Description, without first consulting myself, and that all Communications, in every Direction, would be suspended, as the Letter which I had delivered was full of Importance, and the Ameer had therefore summoned the Nawab from his Castle at Tutung (near Jelalabad), and would send off an Express to Candahar to take the Counsel of his Brothers on what so vitally concerned their common Interest. The Meerza then asked, by the Ameer's Advice, for my Sentiments regarding the Kind of Letter which should be written to Candahar.

No. 20.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 5th March 1838.

ON the 23d ultimo I had the Honour to report to you the Result of my Intercourse with the Ameer of Cabool on the Subject of the Extent to which he was to reckon on the good Offices of the British Government in an Adjust-

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No. 19.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
23d Feb. 1838.

No. 20.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
5th March 1838.

V.

No. 20.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
5th March 1838.

ment of his Differences with the Sikhs, and the Returns which would be expected from him in consequence.

From various Quarters I have meanwhile heard, that the Ruler of Cabool is but ill disposed to meet Government in its Wishes; and the Advice given to him by one of the first Individuals whose Counsel he sought was, that he should take the British Government at their Word, and dismiss their Agent, since there was nothing now to be expected from his Presence in Cabool. From the Receipt of the Governor General's Letter to the present Time nightly Meetings have been held at the Balar Hissar; and the Ameer has, on more than One Occasion, given vent to very strong Expressions, both as to his future Proceedings and the Disappointment at the slight Degree of Appreciation entertained by Government regarding him.

It seems very clear, although the final Answer of Dost Mahomed Khan has not been received, that we have little Hope of establishing a friendly Connexion with him on the Terms wished for by Government; even if it could be brought about before a vast Change of Opinion takes place, the Friendship would be delusive, and no Degree of Dependence could be placed on this Chief.

As Mr. Vickovitch still remains in Cabool (and his Presence is the strongest Test of the Ameer's Disposition to make use of him against us), and as Dost Mahomed Khan does not appreciate our good Offices in Peshawur, I shall deem it my Duty to retire when I receive the Ameer's Letter, unless some very decided Change of Tone takes place at Cabool.

No. 21.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 21.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
13th March 1838.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 13th March 1838.

ON the Morning of the 5th instant I had the Honour to report to you the Result of my Communications with the Ameer of Cabool, and the very unfavourable Aspect which Affairs had assumed.

In the Forenoon of the 5th I had a Visit from the Nawab Jubbar Khan, who came over from the Durbar by the Ameer's Request with a String of Propositions which were to be agreed to by me as the Terms on which the Ameer consented to what was asked of him. These consisted of a Promise to protect Cabool and Candahar from Persia; of the Surrender of Peshawur by Runjeet Sing; of the Interference of our Government to protect at that City those who might return to it from Cabool, supposing it to be restored to Sultan Mahomed Khan; with several other Proposals.

I at once informed the Nawab that I would agree to none of the Terms proposed; that I was astonished to hear a Race so illustrious as the Dooraunees, who had carried their Sword to Ispahan and Delhi, imploring Protection against Persia; that as for Peshawur, it belonged to our ancient Ally the Ruler of Lahore, and he alone could surrender it; and that as for protecting those who returned from Cabool, supposing the Maharajah to make a Settlement, it was an after Concern, which it was now useless to discuss, as well as the other Matters stated, since the Ameer seemed so little disposed to attend to the Views of the British Government, and, what was of more Importance, his own Interests.

The Nawab replied at great Length, and said that we did not seem disposed to meet the Affghans Half-way; that it was true we entertained a mean Opinion of the Power of Persia, and, as he always believed Europeans, he concluded we were right; but that it was otherwise among the Affghans and with the Ameer, and particularly in a City like this, where there were so many Kuzzilbashes, and when Herat was besieged. I abridged the Interview by stating that, as I saw no Hope of Adjustment in the present Tone held, I should request my Dismissal and proceed to Hindoostan, where they might solicit, but probably in vain, another listening to their Grievances. The Nawab left me in Sorrow.

Shortly after the Nawab's Departure I drew up and forwarded the following to the Ameer by means of Meerza Samee Khan.

NOTE.

“ That in consequence of the many Letters which the Ameer Sahib wrote to the British Government about the Sufferings which he experienced at the Hands of the Sikhs the Government had heard his Requests, sympathized with him, and were willing and ready to use its good Offices with Maharajah Runjeet Sing that a Remedy be applied to the Sufferings complained of. The Ameer Sahib wrote to other Governments on the Subject of these Sufferings, and all the Letters had one and the same Contents; but it now appeared that the Remedy which Lord Auckland offered to apply, and which was all that was then asked, was not sufficient, other Demands being made quite unconnected with the Sikhs. That Mr. Burnes has no Power or Authority to speak on other Matters, as is well known from his Lordship's Letter, and he would therefore be deceiving the Ameer by listening to them. Under these Circumstances, as there is a Russian Agent here, and he is detained by the Ameer's Request, it is clearly evident that the Ameer does not approve of the Offers of the British, but seeks the Aid of others. Mr. Burnes feels it due to himself and his Government to ask Leave in consequence to return to Hindoostan. To remain longer here fetters the Ameer, and discredits the British Government in Cabool. Had Mr. Burnes Power to do what the Ameer wishes, he would not ask his Leave; but he has no Power. It is however in the Ameer's Option to make known to the Governor General by a trusty Messenger, whom he can send to Hindoostan, all his Wishes.

“ Cabool, 5th March 1838.

(Signed) ALEX. BURNES.”

In the Evening the Ameer assembled all his Counsellors, several of whom had in the Interval arrived, and a stormy Discussion ensued, which lasted till past Midnight. He was, I hear, very eloquent on the Disgrace which would accrue to him in the Mahomedan World after his Crusades against the Sikhs, and his raising the Countries around. It was at last agreed to summon me next Day; but the Discussion was again resumed on the Morning of the 6th, and lasted till near Noon.

About Mid-day the Meerza, accompanied by Imaum Verdi, who had been called from Jelalabad, waited upon me; they brought the Proposals of the Nawab, somewhat modified, with many Expressions of Regret on the Part of the Ameer and themselves that I seemed so resolute in rejecting all that had been urged. The Meerza Imaum Verdi claimed Peshawur as the Ameer's, but for which he was willing to pay Tribute. I replied, that it never had been the Ameer's. Meerza Samee Khan then brought forward the Clause of Protection from Persia; and I produced Letters which had arrived over Night, to show the Progress and the Hopes of that Power in the Siege of Herat. The Effect was electric; and the Meerza said that we need not now discuss that Point. The Meerza then invited me to the Bala Hissar in the Afternoon, in the Name of the Ameer; and in promising to go I told them that Dost Mahomed Khan could not change my Resolutions, which were final, and that, if he agreed not to what had been stated, I would conclude with asking Permission to leave Cabool To-morrow Morning. Meerza Samee Khan declared that that never could and never would be permitted, for the Hopes of this Country rested on the British Government.

At the Time appointed I proceeded alone to the Bala Hissar, and met the Ameer, whom I found more gracious and more friendly even than usual. He was only attended by the Two Meerzas above named. I lost no Time in entering upon Business, and said that I was sorry to hear he had not taken the Governor General's Letter in the Spirit it was written, and that he had deemed it harsh, when the very Fact of his Lordship sending such a Letter proved the Interest taken in him, and that I had perused the Document in English and Persian, without finding a single Expression to offend him. It was true that it was a very explicit Paper, but the Affghans were a Nation famed for their straightforward Proceedings, and it was most important to act towards him with a clear good Faith, and let him know at once what might be expected of the British Government.

These Observations drew him forth, and he took up the whole Question argumentatively, in which Manner I was glad to meet him. He said that my Explanation of his Lordship's Letter was very true, and perhaps satisfactory; but that he had ever avowed himself as an anxious Suitor for the

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No. 21.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 13th March 1838.

Friendship of the British Nation ; that its Fame and its Generosity surpassed all others, but he now inferred from the Governor General's Letter, and from what I had told him, that it was thought that he was prepared to go counter to its Wishes, and to make it his Enemy, which had never even entered into his Contemplation ; that he appealed to all his past Conduct if he had shown any such Symptoms ; that he was a rude Affghan, not accustomed to the Polish of Courts, and had been unable to do the Honour to a Representative from the British which so exalted a Nation was so well entitled to, but as far as his Ability went, he had gone ; and his Efforts, however incommensurate with his Wishes, should acquit them ; that as for the Sikhs, he might or might not be able to resist them, but he could not stand for a Month against the British, and the Thought of its Displeasure even filled him with Terror.

It appeared to him that both the Government and myself had taken an erroneous View of his Correspondence with Persia, Russia, and the neighbouring Nations ; that I in particular had, in the Note which I had forwarded to him, made it appear that to one and all his Addresses had been of the same Import, and that the good Offices which the British were now disposed to use in his Behalf were the Result that he desired, but it was otherwise. Runjeet Sing had in his Wars slain and disgraced Thousands of the Affghans ; and he sought for Money from others, for Assistance from us, and from all Means of injuring so bitter an Enemy. He knew that the Maharajah was our Friend, and that we would not attack him ; but we had it in our Power to rescue Peshawur, as we had rescued Shikapore, not by Arms, but by a single Hint to the Ruler of Lahore ; that, on the contrary, we had avowed our being more than ever friendly to him, had preferred him to the Affghans, who were willing to do us Service. What, however, was more remarkable than all, we had coupled with the Offers of Sympathy in his Difficulties numerous Pledges and Promises that benefited ourselves, when it would have been more magnanimous to act without any individual Benefit accruing to us. That he had hoped to raise the Power of Toorkistan, and others, not including Persia and Russia, to aid him in his War ; but though we had not avowed such Proceedings being disagreeable to us, it was clear from the Turn which Things had taken, that they would be so, and it was Folly in him to persist in a Course that excited our Anger.

I replied to these Observations, that his good Feeling towards our Nation was known ; that his cordial, kind, and friendly Treatment of the Mission that had been sent to him was duly appreciated by Government ; and besides this public Acknowledgment it would remain engraven in my own Memory while I lived. That what he objected to in the Inference drawn from his Lordship's Letter was, as it appeared to me, himself being the Judge, an untenable Opinion. With Runjeet Sing as our Friend, were we to aid him in his Wars ? We had gone to the very Limit of Propriety in offering to give our good Offices for Peace ; and we did so because it was earnestly to be desired for both Parties. Are we, however, said I, to allow you to sit in Cabool, address Russia and Persia, bring Agents from those Countries, and publicly avow that you wish to disturb the Peace of a Friend on our Frontiers ? Thanks be to Providence and the Valour of our Army, we have no Fear of Foreign Enemies ; but when the House of a Neighbour is fired, it is but good Neighbourhood to put it out, and it is better to come to an Understanding before the Accident happens ; that we regarded but little the Dread of such an Accident ; but he knew that my Presence here had reference to commercial Matters ; and that we saw, in a Discontinuance of these Differences, the Benefit of all ; that I could not possibly have misunderstood his Addresses to Foreign Powers regarding Maharajah Runjeet Sing ; and that though I now admitted he wrote to one for Money, and to another for Aid, still his Ends were alike. I begged, moreover, explicitly to tell him, that I had not come to Cabool as a Petitioner, but because he had solicited it ; that I was not here to humble our Government before him or his Countrymen, but to tell him that if he did not wish our good Offices on the Terms proposed he should dismiss me.

He professed himself shocked at this last Proposition, and that inevitable Disgrace would flow from it. You have been welcomed by every Mahomedan State since you left Bombay, from a Belief that you were the Bringer of good News to an unhappy Race of Men, whose internal Discord has made them the

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Prey of a Nation of another Faith. I dare not, if I wished it, set myself up against the Affghan People; the Belief has gone abroad that your Presence is connected with their Advantage, and though I admit that I profit by it, still the Objects of my Heart are not fully accomplished. There are Affghans in Tak fighting in Thousands at this Hour against the Sikhs; they have aided me, and they looked to me, but their Sufferings will have no Abatement; but I throw myself upon the Generosity of the Governor General of India, and I rely on the Sympathy which his Lordship has expressed.

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I congratulated the Ameer on his having seen his own Interest better than to permit of Friendship being interrupted between him and a Nation so well disposed towards him, but that it was now my Duty to tell him clearly what we expected of him, and what we could do in return. You must never receive Agents from other Powers, or have aught to do with them, without our Sanction; you must dismiss Captain Vickovitch with Courtesy; you must surrender all Claim to Peshawur on your own Account, as that Chiefship belongs to Maharajah Runjeet Sing; you must live on friendly Terms with that Potentate; you must also respect the Independence of Candahar and of Peshawur, and co-operate in Arrangements to unite your Family. In return for this I promise to recommend to the Government that it use its good Offices with its ancient Ally Maharajah Runjeet Sing to remove present and future Causes of Difference between the Sikhs and Affghans at Peshawur; but as that Chiefship belongs to the Maharajah, he may confer it on Sultan Mahomed Khan, or any other Affghan whom he chooses, on his own Terms and Tribute; it being understood that such Arrangement is to preserve the Credit and Honour of all Parties.

"To this I assent," said the Ameer; "but as these Arrangements are not set forth in full in his Lordship's Letter, it would be desirable for you to reduce the Matter to Writing, as far as your Knowledge of the Governor General's Views will permit you, that I may fairly see what is expected, and what is to be done in return. The Differences of the Affghans and Sikhs can never be said to be adjusted so long as the Maharajah keeps his Troops and Officers at Peshawur, and consequently, though I place every Faith in the friendly Intervention of the British, and know that the Maharajah must be left to himself, I am bound to state that fresh Causes for Disturbance must arise if his Highness does not place my Brother or an Affghan in Peshawur, and leave him to govern it, subject to his (the Maharajah's) Orders, but without the Presence of Sikh Troops." I replied, that since the Ameer agreed himself to Peace it was better to leave these Things to be settled hereafter, since the less that was now said about them the better.

I then enjoined the Ameer to use his utmost Efforts to effect an Union of the Barukzye Family. I told him that at Candahar the Sirdars were ready, on certain Conditions, to attach themselves to the British Government, whether he did or not, and that before I visited him I felt it my Duty to send off an Express to say that no such Agreement ever would be made, since our Object was to unite, and not to sow Dissensions among his Family. As an Instance of our good Feeling, I would impart to him a Plan of the Governor General, which might or might not come to Maturity, but which showed how much his Lordship was interested in the Prosperity of all Parties. It was, that if the English became the Mediators for Peace at Herat between the Shah and Kamran, it would be stipulated that the latter should in future cease to molest Candahar. No such Arrangement or Stipulation may take place, said I, but the Intention must still remain as the Proof of his Lordship's most friendly Consideration.

Dost Mahomed Khan assured me that he highly appreciated this Symptom of the Governor General's Friendship, and also thanked me for having returned so prompt an Answer to Candahar; inveighing at the same Time against his Brothers for their Instability. I said that this arose from their Weakness, which raised up Alarm, but, if united, they would add to their Strength and his own.

When I left the Ameer he got up, and in an under Tone, so as not to be heard by his Servants, said, that he hoped the Government would bear in mind his peculiar Situation, and see that his Respect and Name were preserved; that its good Offices should be peculiarly directed so as to preserve these, since a Failure with us might entail upon him greater Disgrace than ever; for

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No. 21.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
13th March 1838.

his Hopes rested in Agitation, and having ceased to agitate, he thereby diminished his own Strength, which, at an early Interview after my Arrival in Cabool, he had told me he was well aware was not One Tenth of that possessed by the Lahore Chief. On this the Interview ended, and it will be seen that the Subject of Persia was not even mentioned, insuperable as it appeared to be, and which, without a Doubt, the Intelligence from Herat prevented.

In the Beginning of these Proceedings it was the expressed Wish of his Lordship that the Differences of the Sikhs and Affghans should be healed without an ostensible Intervention on our Part. I had little Hope, from the Excitation that reigns in this Country, that this Plan would be feasible. After nearly a Six Months Residence in this City, I am constrained to pronounce it perfectly hopeless. It is only out of Regard to his Lordship and our Feelings generally that the Affghans have been taught to name Maharajah Runjeet Sing with becoming Respect; and it is to be remembered that these People are elated at their partial Success over Runjeet Sing's Arms, though the Ameer himself knows that it was a sorry Victory, and one without any beneficial Consequences. It however unfortunately carried with it an Impression that the Attack might be successfully repeated, and the Train of Events which have followed would have led the Affghans, but for the Presence of an Agent of the British, to Acts that must have altered the existing political Condition of these Countries.

The vast Resources of Maharajah Runjeet Sing would have, as a matter of course, preserved to him his Dominions; but the Misrepresentations of the Persian Elchee Kumber Ale Khan would have drawn the Chiefs of Candahar and Cabool to aid in the Persian Siege of Herat, and the Resources of that Kingdom and of Affghanistan would have been thus arrayed against one City. Had it fallen, Promises equally worthless would have led the Affghans to trust to Persia for prosecuting their Wars to the Eastward, and with the Kuzzilbash Influence in this City (not in the Country), their Introduction must have been ruinous to the Integrity of Affghanistan. The Promises of Captain Vickovitch I cannot at this Time permit myself to believe made with the Concurrence of the Emperor; but they remain uncontradicted, and must continue so for a Time, so that they would have had at this Crisis all the Effect of Truth, and led the Affghans headlong, as I consider, to Ruin.

On the Morning of the 10th I received a Deputation from the Ameer, consisting of the Nawab Hafizjee, the Son of Meer Waez, (a Man who cut a conspicuous Figure in Affghan History,) and the Naib or Deputy of the Ameer, a Barukzye. The Object of these Personages was to draw from me the written Document above alluded to; and, besides giving Reasons for its being withheld, I ran over with them the whole History of the Ameer's Applications to our Government.

I had proceeded thus far with this Despatch when Notice of Letters of a most embarrassing Nature reached this Place, from Candahar, in the course of the 12th instant. They convey the Intimation of M. Goutte, the Russian Agent with Mahomed Shah, having promised to get Count Simonich to ratify the Treaty of the Sirdars of Candahar with the Shah, and that a Letter of a flattering Nature had been addressed to these Chiefs by the Shah himself.

No. 22.

Ameer Dost MAHOMED KHAN to Lord AUCKLAND.

After Compliments.

Cabool, 21st March 1838.

No. 22.
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
Lord Auckland,
21st March 1838.

WHEN I was anxious to hear of your Welfare, and to receive the Marks of your Lordship's Favour, your highly esteemed Letter reached me, and made me happy. Its Contents, which I fully understood, conveyed the Promise of your Lordship's Favour in behalf of the Affghan People to some limited Points, and also how far your Lordship will do them Kindness on certain Conditions; all this I have perfectly comprehended.

Consequent on my several Applications and ardent Hopes for a Settlement of my Affairs with the Sikh Government, your Lordship was kind enough to depute Captain Alexander Burnes to Cabool.

Meanwhile

Meanwhile other Circumstances happened ; the King of Persia marched on Herat, which delayed the Settlement of Affairs on this Side the Attock (Indus). As I rely on the British Friendship, I gave no Countenance to the Persian Government. What I wrote to prevent the Sirdars of Candahar from making any Connexion with Persia is known to Captain Burnes.

After this had occurred the Emperor of Russia has sent here his Messenger, with His Majesty's Royal Letter to me, which I showed to Captain Burnes, along with my own Letter to the Emperor, which I had addressed in the Time of my Distress.

I have not yet replied to the Letter from Russia, as Snow, and the Disturbances of the Road, prevented my dismissing the Messenger ; but as the Winter is now over, and the Roads are free from Danger, I shall by all means dismiss him, that he may return to his Country safely.

To make known Objects, in the Hope of Profit, to those Personages who can do some Good to the Man in Want, is consistent with Propriety. Your Lordship is the Source of Generosity and Favour ; therefore I take the Liberty to repeat my Grievances, expecting that your Lordship will release the Affghans from Distress, and enlarge their Possessions.

If your Lordship settles the Affairs of the Affghans, they and their Posterity will be grateful ; you will have a good Name ; and by their Connexions with the British Government they will perform the most important and useful Service, according to your Satisfaction. The King of Persia is now besieging Herat ; but if your Lordship would give us a little Encouragement and Assistance His Majesty would never be able to attack the Country of the Affghans.

The Favours of your Lordship are beyond the Description of my Pen ; but I am lost in Speculation what has created this Neglect of your Lordship in behalf of the Affghan People. A Settlement of the Affairs of the East of Affghanistan remains under a painful Delay, Disturbances are making Havoc on the West, and the whole of this People are low spirited ; how then is it possible that this Nation can be free from impending Dangers ? I have no Kind of Inclination to enter into an Alliance with any other Power but the British.

If we resolve to check the Progress of the Enemy on the West, my Want and Need prevent me undertaking the Expedition. If Herat falls into the Hands of the Persians it will cause serious Loss and Damage to the whole Country of Affghanistan. When Disappointments afflict the Heart of Mankind they do many Things that are wrong. I hope Herat will never be taken by the Kajars, which might compel the Affghans of that Part to submit to that Power.

The Chiefs of Candahar, somewhat by Fear and somewhat by Weakness, as well as by their Hopelessness, are bringing Death to themselves. If they become Friends to the Persians, and I also be unable to protect them, this will produce much Harm in Affghanistan.

I hope and sincerely trust that your Lordship will apply an immediate Cure to my Pains, for the Russians are publicly assisting the Persians, and have made a Breach in the Treaty which has long subsisted between them and the British, by stepping into the Country of Affghanistan.

If such Things do take place, what then prevents your Lordship remedying our Grievances and protecting us ?

If your Lordship would give us a little Encouragement and Power it would be impossible for Mahomed Shah to go back safely to Persia, or take with him the Baggage and Guns which he has now with him at Herat.

If your Lordship is pleased to bestow a little Trouble to adjust Affairs between this Country and the Maharajah Runjeet Sing, who is the great and old Ally of the British, how is it possible that we should make Objection to it, or to suitable Arrangements for Peace ?

As I rely on your Lordship's Favour, I have freely laid open my Feelings in the Hope of better Fortune, since Delays raise up Fear of Danger.

Captain Burnes will fully inform your Lordship respecting the rest of my Affairs. Let me be honoured by hearing from your Lordship.

V.

No. 22.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
toLord Auckland,
21st March 1838.

No. 23.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

V.

No. 23.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 24th March 1838.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 24th March 1838.

IN my Letter of the 13th instant, reporting the Progress which had been made in communicating with the Ameer of Cabool, I was under the Necessity of abruptly terminating the Communication, on account of the Arrival of Letters from Candahar.

After the Interview which I had with the Deputation sent to me by the Ameer on the 10th, and which wished to draw from me a Paper of Pledge regarding the Use of our good Offices at Peshawar, I had no more Intercourse on Business, till the 16th instant, with the Ameer or his Agents, and it was only from Visitors that I learned that Things were going wrong. These Reports went to inform me that the Ameer had despatched a Letter to Candahar, telling his Brothers that his Hopes on the British had left him; that much more Attention had been shown to Captain Vickovitch than he had ever experienced; with several other Pieces of Information conveying a similar Import.

It was quite clear that no such Conduct on the Part of Dost Mahomed Khan could for a Moment be tolerated by our Government; but under the Circumstances of the late Accounts from Candahar, it was impossible to tell whether the Alienation arose from my Refusal of the Papers of Pledge; and any extreme Proceedings on my Part might have contributed to the Fall of Herat, by throwing into the Scale against it all the Weight of this Country. The Intelligence, however, from that City being prejudicial to Prospects of Success on the Part of Persia, made me resolve to have an immediate Explanation or my Dismissal.

To put it out of the Ameer's Power to misconstrue the Intentions of the Governor General, I sent to him on the Morning of the 18th the following "Note," repeating my Request for Leave, if it was not his Intention to do as therein stated.

NOTE.

" Since it appears that the Ameer considers the Letter of the Governor General as conveying his Lordship's Wish to terminate Intercourse with the Affghans, Captain Burnes begs to remind the Ameer that that Letter has no such Meaning. The Ameer complained of what he suffers from the Sikhs. His Lordship has used his Interposition to prevent a Continuance of War with that Nation, and is willing to continue his good Offices that a permanent Peace be established. Should the Ameer be dissatisfied with these good Offices, and seek Connexion with other Powers, then the Ameer is to consider the Governor General's Letter a final Answer, and not till then, since our Friendship is entirely dependent on the Relinquishment of Alliance with any Power to the West. This is well known, but I commit it to Writing that there may be no Misapprehension or Mistake.

" Cabool, 18th March 1838.

(Signed) A. BURNES."

The Effect of this Declaration now brought upon the Ameer the Soonees of this Country, and I am given to understand that some Influence from the Harem was likewise exercised, for it appeared that the Persian Party were the Mainspring of this Change of Sentiment, and had redoubled their Exertion when they found the Ameer disposed to hesitate; and the Ability, Tact, and Education of the few Individuals of this Tribe, who regularly attend the Durbar, for a Time outweighed the Arguments of the more simple Affghans.

In the course of the Day, and after much Discussion, the Ameer sent his Brother the Nawab along with Meerza Samee Khan, and another confidential Servant, to tell me that he was sorry to have caused so much Uneasiness to me; that the Government of this Country being "Ooloosee" (that is, of the Tribes) was difficult to manage; that he regretted the Contents of his late Letter to Candahar, for he wrote under Disappointment; and that he now threw himself on the Favour of the Governor General, and desired the Nawab and the Meerza to pass to me a Paper under their Seal, pledging the Dismissal of M. Vickovitch without further Delay, and requesting to know from me the Route by which he should return. I told the Party that I was glad that the

Ameer's

Ameer's Sense had prevailed against the Persuasion of interested Individuals, but that he must understand it was he himself that was favoured and not us. As for the Dismissal of the Russian, it would be sufficient if it were done, but speedily done. The Party left me, saying that they would return next Morning, and make some Observations, not as Conditions, but for the Governor General's Consideration.

On the 19th I received the promised Visit from the Nawab and Meerza Samee Khan, who were joined by the Naib-i-Ameer. The Purport of their first Communication was to point out to me the Danger at Candahar on account of the Vicinity of the Persian Army, and their Refusal to become subservient to the Shah, after His Majesty's Acceptance of their Treaty and its being guaranteed by Russia. To this I replied, that if the Shah were not in a State of Despair I did not believe he would have written as he had done to the Sirdars at Candahar, and for my Part I did not believe the Russian Agent with the Shah had the Power to act as he had promised; and I put it to themselves if it were likely that Mohamed Shah would waste his Blood and his Treasure to capture Herat that he might surrender it to them; and that the Candahar Sirdars ought to rely on our Government, if they expected to keep what they had; and that I would write to those Personages by a Horseman this Day, to bid them look to Bahawulpore and Sinde as a Proof of the English never forsaking those Friends who placed Reliance upon them. My Advice therefore was, that the Ameer should second this Counsel, and retract what he had in an unguarded Moment written some Days since. This was agreed upon.

The Naib-i-Ameer then recurred to the Observations which I had always made, in refusing a Paper of Pledge regarding the Use of our good Offices at Peshawur, that that Chiefship did not belong to us, and I could not therefore give such a Document. To that Point the Ameer has yielded, hoping that some Change for the better will be made; but the British Government have no such Argument to adduce regarding what occurs between Persia and the Affghan States. The Affghans had abandoned all Connexion with Persia for Two Reasons,—that it was conducive to their Interests to have no Intimacy with that Power, and that such a Proceeding was agreeable to us, whom it was their great Object to conciliate; but we had refused all pecuniary Aid, and their Situation was endangered, and the more so as Affghanistan was crippled by the Loss of Peshawur, while, with the Three Chiefships united, the Affghans might repulse Persia. In addition to this the Ameer had desired him to point out to me the Sixth Article of the Treaty made by Kumber Alee Khan, and which the Russian Government had guaranteed, viz., the Promise that “in case any Harm befalls Candahar, the Shah of Persia agreed to give them in his own Country Land equal to the Value of their Loss.”

To these close Questions I answered, that the Affghans would never have Cause to regret their Friendship with us, but that we must have good Proofs before we pledged any thing, and that we are not asking a Departure from their own Interests by telling them to adhere to us; that there was certainly a Difference between their Case as connected with Persia from that with Runjeet Sing; but I hoped there would be no Occasion to provide against such a Calamity as the Loss of Candahar; and, at all events, that there would be Abundance of Time to refer the Matter for the Governor General's Consideration, which I promised to do; that, however, I mistrusted all the Promises of M. Goutte regarding the Treaty in question; and finally, if Differences were removed from among the Affghan Chiefships, I, who had been in both that Country and Persia, believed that the Shah could make no Impression on Affghanistan; and further, that the only Way to interest the Governor General in their Behalf was to consign themselves, as the Ameer had Yesterday stated, to his Lordship, and I would promise them more certain good Treatment than Persia would ever secure to them.

The Result of the Persian Interference in Affghan Affairs, as will be seen, has revived the Question of Protection from Persia (though in a qualified Manner), which I had believed to have been set at rest.

The State of the Weather prevented my having direct Communication with the Ameer on the preceding Points till the 23d, when he came in Person to visit me. I had not seen him since the 6th instant. On this Occasion I was very sorry to observe a Tone which I had not before seen exhibited. The

V.

No. 23.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 24th March 1838.

Ameer may have authorized his Advisers to speak as they had done, and he may entertain the Feelings which they expressed; but I am bound to judge of what he said himself, and this by no means seems to me so satisfactory as I have reported or had been led to believe. He stated that he had been viewed by our Government as no one; that his Friendship was worth little; that he was told to consider himself fortunate at our preventing the Sikhs coming to Cabool, of which he himself had no Fear; that he had applied to us for a Cure in Affairs at Peshawur, but our Remedy was beyond his Comprehension; and that though he felt honoured and grateful for the Governor General's sending a Mission to him, he had now lost every Description of Hope from us; that he saw little or no probable Benefit to the Affghans as a People, and less to himself; that our Government seemed to doubt him in his Connexion with other Powers, but he would now tell me that he wished to cling to us, for Russia with her vast Army and Empire would, from Distance, do him no Good except through Persia, which was as much hers as India was British; but that as for trusting to Mahomed Shah himself, he had no such Folly, and he would resist his Advance to the last, he being the Enemy of the Affghans. We might therefore feel satisfied on these Points, that he would seek no such Alliance, but that if he and his Countrymen were to be subdued, it was much better to be overthrown by Mahomed Shah, who was a Kind of a Mahomedan, instead of the Sikhs; that, however, he had little Fear of either, for the Millions of Money which the Dooraunees in the Zenith of their Glory had amassed and brought to Cabool had not been lost by Attacks from Persians or Sikhs, but from internal Discord.

I reasoned much with the Ameer on these Confessions, and said at once that our Government had no Desire to guide him, and if he did not approve of its Offers he need not accept them, and it was evident that so long as he held such Language, and that too in public, no good Understanding could be established. He at once replied, "I do not see what you are aiming at. I am either kept in the Dark or misled. Never was there such Excitement in this Land. The Persians are before Herat, openly aided by Russia; that Power has sent an Agent here, and your Government have deputed you. I wish no Countenance but that of the English, and you refuse all Pledges and Promises, and mean, I presume, as you are a People of your Word, to do nothing for me. I am bound in Duty to say as I feel, or I would be deceiving myself and you." I contented myself with answering this long String of Grievances by saying that he could shape his own Course as he thought best; and I referred him to Sinde as an Instance of the Value of a British Connexion.

In pledging himself to have nothing to do with the Powers to the West the Ameer has so far acted in coincidence with the Views of Government; but it will be seen that he is not so sensible as he was expected to be of our good Offices in Peshawur, and seems to doubt of any thing being done. He has been told, and now admits, that he can exercise no Kind of Interference in an Adjustment of Affairs there; but it is too evident that he will test the British by what is settled in that Chiefship. If the Maharajah restores it, in whole or in part, to Sultan Mahomed Khan, he still paying Tribute to Lahore, it would silence Complaints in Cabool, and be to the Affghans an Earnest of our Sympathy of the highest Value; but if something decisive is not done in this Quarter, no Reliance, in my Opinion, is to be placed on this Chief. Fear, it appears to me, of our Displeasure is the Lever on which he is now moved; and it has not escaped him, that if Peshawur be restored, even partially, and Candahar clings to us, these Chiefships will become identified with the British, and thus the Ruler of Cabool will find himself awkwardly situated from the Conduct of his own Relatives. If, on the other hand, we succeed in uniting the whole of the Barukzye Family, which I believe quite practicable, we shall raise up in this Country, instead of weak and divided States accessible to every Intrigue, alike injurious to themselves and us, a Barrier which will prevent future Causes of Vexation, and advance commercial and political Ends.

No. 24.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 25 April 1838.

ON the 24th ultimo I had the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, the Mode in which my Discussions with the Ameer of Cabool had terminated, and that though Hope then existed of some ultimate good Understanding being established, it has Day by Day grown more faint; and I have now received my Dismissal from Cabool, and am preparing without Loss of Time to quit this City, and retire upon Peshawur. The immediate Cause of such a Step being necessary is the Arrival of Sirdar Mehirdil Khan from Candahar, and the Demands in consequence made by him, in which he has been joined by the Ameer, for a direct Promise of Protection from Persia should Herat fall, of which there is no Doubt now entertained by the Authorities here. I shall report in Detail the Circumstances which have led to this untoward Event at Cabool.

Shortly after Sirdar Mehirdil Khan reached this he waited upon me, and we conversed upon all which had passed, when I plainly told him that the Manner in which the Ameer had met the Views of the British Government was by no means likely to satisfy it, and instanced his declining to open any Communication, direct or indirect, with Maharajah Runjeet Sing, as the clearest Proof of his Neglect of our Advice and his own Interests. The Sirdar expressed great Concern at what had passed, but immediately turned upon the Affairs of Candahar, stating that he had full Powers from his Two Brothers there to treat with me, and that he must have, as the Price of adhering to us in the present critical State of Affairs at Herat, a Pledge of Protection from Persia. I told him that he could have no stronger or better Pledge from Government than the Presence of Mr. Leech at such a Juncture, for the British never deserted their Friends; and who would presume to disturb them when an Agent accredited by it was resident at Candahar?

This was far from satisfying the Sirdar, who declared that neither he nor his Brothers could accept such general Promises, and that they had a Claim on the British, since, whatever might have been the Behaviour of the Ameer at Cabool, the Candahar Family had done nothing wrong, and adhered to our Government, which was bound in consequence to protect them. This Interview took place on the 13th instant.

On the 15th I received another Visit from Sirdar Mehirdil Khan, who was accompanied by the Nawab Jubbar Khan, Meerza Samee Khan, and the Naibs of Candahar and Cabool. The Deputation was a formal one from both Branches of the Family. The Sirdar now informed me that the Ameer had agreed to write to the Maharajah through the Governor General; to dismiss Captain Vickovitch; to hold no further Communication with other Powers; to write to the Shah of Persia that he had done with His Majesty for ever. The Sirdars of Candahar on their Part agreed to address the Shah, recall Ullahdad the Agent, who had accompanied Kumber Alee, and to place themselves, along with their Brother the Ameer, entirely under the Protection of the British Government; in return for which they claimed at its Hands Two Things: first, a direct Promise of its good Offices to establish Peace at Peshawur, and an Amelioration in the Condition of Sultan Mahomed Khan; and, second, a Promise, equally direct, to afford them Protection from Persia, in whatever Way the British judged it best for their Interests, it being clearly understood that Candahar was not to be allowed to suffer Injury.

In reply to these Observations I observed, that it was very satisfactory to hear what had been stated regarding the Intentions of the Ameer and the Chiefs of Candahar; but the Deputation must not wonder at my being sceptical as to their Sincerity, after my having received, so long since as the 23d ultimo, a Letter of Promise addressed to the Governor General, to dismiss Captain Vickovitch, while that Officer still continued in Cabool; that with respect to Peshawur, the whole Matter rested on Maharajah Runjeet Sing, with whom we were willing to use our good Offices, if they behaved in a suitable Manner; and had nothing further to say, than to regret their fixed Determination not to address that Personage directly, which might protract to a remote Period a Settlement so much to be desired for the Good of all Parties.

V.

No. 24.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
25th April 1838.

V.

No. 24.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 25th April 1838.

Parties. With reference to their desisting from all Intercourse with other Powers, that followed as a mere matter of course, if they expected our Friendship; but it was a very grave Question for me to answer that we should immediately secure Candahar from the Attacks of Persia. Mr. Leech was there by my Orders and with the Sanction of the Governor General; and what Proof of our Intention not to forsake them more valuable than this could they desire? But for my Part their Apprehension seemed very premature, for Herat was not yet captured, and the brave Defence it was making should dispel their Despondency. "Above all," said I, "your Proceedings seem singularly inconsistent, when it was but Three Months ago that you informed me you did not fear Persia but the Ruler of Herat."

To this the Sirdar replied, that I could not have considered that they had not only received an Agent from the Emperor of Russia in Cabool, but a written Promise, under the Seal and Signature of M. Goutte, the Russian Agent with the Shah of Persia at Herat, which he had with him, granting all that they desired; and it was for me to consider how far, under such Circumstances, they could receive my Arguments in opposition to such direct and recorded Pledges. I asked if they reposed Confidence in these Papers: "Most certainly," was the Reply, "since they are from Europeans, whose Word is inviolable." "But," continued I, "is not Russia to aid you through means of Persia; and how does the Shah act towards you? He addresses you as his Vassals, and calls your Country a Part of his own. Are Lord Auckland's Letters or Views couched in such Terms? Certainly not." "That may be all true enough," said the Sirdar; "but a powerful Enemy threatens us; and if you will do no more than use general Terms, and go no farther than keeping Mr. Leech at Candahar, we must take Measures to secure ourselves in the Manner best suited for our Advantage." The Interview lasted about Four Hours; and I need not repeat the many Arguments adduced for their abstaining from an Alliance with Persia, since there was nothing new in them further than has been now given.

On the 17th instant, as I have already reported to Government, an Agent reached this from Herat, bringing, as now appears, a Communication from Vizier Yar Mahomed Khan, begging for Assistance, and setting forth the Difficulties which increased upon them, all of which went to still further excite the Fears of the Ameer and his Brothers for their own Safety, since the Fall of Herat was again placed before them, and with it, as they believed, a shaking of their own Stability, with which they could only contend by throwing themselves upon Persia, through Russia, or by drawing from me, as the Agent of the British Government, a Pledge that no Harm would befall them.

On the 19th I received a second Deputation, consisting of the Nawab, Meerza Samee Khan, and Resid Akhoond Zadee, the Adviser of the Candahar Chiefs; but Mehirdil Khan was not of the Party. The chief Spokesman on this Occasion was Reshid, and he set forth at great Length the Views of his Master. "It appeared," said he, "that this is no longer an Affair between one Nation and another, but it is Russia and Persia against England and the Sikhs; for Captain Vickovitch has publicly declared to the Ameer that the Interests of the Emperor and the Shah are identified; and though we would not trust the Shah himself, we may safely rely upon Russia." Meerza Samee Khan stated that a Termination one Way or the other was now at hand; and as the Ameer and his Brothers had no other Wish but to adhere to the British I might easily keep them in our Interests by giving the Promise asked of me, though there was little Hope of my doing so, when a single Word from the Government might have long since settled Peshawur, and we refrained from saying it. Besides Replies of a justificatory Nature to these Points, I told the Party that they very unnecessarily obtruded upon us the Power of Russia; that she was a very remote Nation, to say nothing further of the Inutility of an Alliance with her; and that as for the Comparison between Persia and Runjeet Sing, I could assure them that the Maharajah's Power was far superior to that of Mahomed Shah, and I spoke from personal Observation. On my declining to give the Promises asked of me regarding Candahar and Peshawur the Interview terminated.

On the following Day I had a private Interview with ———, who did not conceal from me that the Ameer had withdrawn his Hopes from our Government; and though he did not tell me on whom he had centered them

it was not difficult to discover. He told me that Captain Vickovitch had informed him of his Government and Persia being one, and that the Russian Agent had been explaining to him in what Manner Mahomed Shah had been raised to the Throne of Persia. The English and Russian Governments had both given him their Hand, but the Object of Russia was to exalt His Majesty, and of England to lower him.

Any Doubts as to the Course which the Ameer and his Advisers were to follow were soon removed, for he opened at once an Intercourse, in Person, with Captain Vickovitch, and besides having been long closeted with him, sent for him publicly on the 21st instant, when he was conducted through the Streets of Cabool, and received a greater Degree of Respect than had been hitherto shown to him. The Nature of the Intercourse between him and the Ameer has been reported to me on good Authority, and is any thing but complimentary to the British, but as it rests on Report alone I shall not here record it.

Seeing that the Ameer was now almost reckless, and, if respectable People are to be relied on, even encouraged to commit himself by some Acts of Indiscretion towards the Mission, I resolved on the 22d to address him a firm but temperate Note, drawing to his Mind all past Events, not from any Hope that Advantage could be derived from it in my Negotiations, but to place as distinctly as possible before him how much he might have himself to blame for any thing that followed. This Document is appended (No. 1.) On the Day after it had been transmitted I received a Reply containing the Notification of his having done with the British Government (No. 2.), in which, as there were some Circumstances requiring Explanation, I again addressed him in Writing (No. 3.), and applied for Carriage to convey the Mission to Peshawur. This I sent for Delivery to himself, when he enlarged upon his Ill-fortune, and our Want of Appreciation either of himself or the Dangers which threatened him; adding that he would most certainly attend to my Requests for Carriage, and see the Party safely carried beyond his Country, which would still be open to all People of the English Nation who visited it.

On the 24th I had no Communication with the Officers of the Ameer, but in several Notes regarding the Arrangements for my Departure, in all of which every and prompt Attention was paid to my Wishes, and proper Persons nominated to accompany me to the Frontier.

On the 25th I was visited by Sirdar Mehri Dil Khan, the Nawab, Meerza Samee Khan, and the Naib of the Ameer; but it appeared to be of entirely a complimentary Nature, for though they set out with professing to do all the Government wished, there was no Change in what has been previously stated. Mehri Dil Khan said that the Ameer had understood it had been reported that Captain Vickovitch had written to Maharajah Runjeet Sing to desire him to quit Peshawur; and I said at once that it was as public as Report could make it; when the Sirdar said that it had been talked of, but not settled. He then said that the Presence of an Agent from Kamram, now with me, was not consistent with a due Regard to our friendly Professions towards them. To this I replied, that I had not sent for an Agent from Herat; that it was well known to them, if the British had mediated for the Safety of Herat, the Price of that was to be the Discontinuance of Attack on Candahar, and, what was still further, the Ameer in his Note had included Herat as a Part of Affghanistan to be protected; and there had been so little Concealment in the Object of the Agent's Mission that I had given the Letters of which he was the Bearer for the Perusal of the Meerza of the Ameer. This was unanswerable.

In the Afternoon I had my Audience of Leave with the Ameer, whom I found considerably excited. He ran over the Contents of the Note No. 2., and said very distinctly that he had erred in applying to the British Government. I answered that it was ready to do what he had asked of it; and he interrupted me by saying, that if the Governor General believed it was a Protection of Cabool he had sued for, it was a Mistake. Seeing the Tone of Feeling exhibited, I thought it advisable to say no more on what had passed, and, preparatory to Leave-taking, thanked him for his Attention and Arrangements for my returning to Peshawur. He on this renewed the Question of my Departure; declared he was not to blame; that he had discarded Persia in

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Captain Burnes
to the
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25th April 1838.

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 Governor General,
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the Hope of pleasing us, and likewise slighted Russia, for instead of caressing Captain Vickovitch, as was due to a great Government like Russia, he had paid him no Attention, and came always in Person to visit me, while he had sent no one to him. He now appealed to me if he had not been indifferent to the Russian Agent; and knowing as I did what had passed within these few Days, I looked surprised. He then observed that he did not allude to what had passed this Day or Two, as he had certainly seen and consulted with Captain Vickovitch, and meant to avail himself of his Services to rid Affghanistan of its present Difficulties; but here again, continued he, I suffer from having called in your Government; Persia will perhaps refuse my Offers, because I treated her Agent slightly, and Russia may tell me that I only cling to her when you have cast me off.

Seeing Matters in this State I said but little, and referred him to my written Papers, when the Ameer launched forth in Praise of the English Nation and the Conduct of the Mission, &c. &c., and begged I would stay as his Guest for a few Days. I replied that the Servants of the Public were not their own Masters, and after what he had written and stated it was my Duty to quit his Country without Delay, as I would never feel satisfied in a Land where the Good-will of my Government was not appreciated; that that Good-will was implored throughout Asia, but had lost its Virtue in Cabool. I added, that this was the Second Instance of Failure in this Country, and that where a Man so celebrated as Mr. Elphinstone had failed it might have been presumptuous in me to have hoped for Success. To this he replied that Mr. Elphinstone's Failure arose with the Inability of the Affghans, but my Failure with the Disinclination of the British, for what other Meaning was attachable to Words when Herat was about to fall and Candahar threatened? After some further Conversation I took my Leave, with many apparently kind and gracious Expressions on his Part.

No. 1.—Captain Burnes to the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan.

Cabool, 22d April 1838.

Enclosures.

Mr. Burnes begs to recall the Ameer's Attention to Two Notes formerly delivered, adverting to certain Points connected with his Presence at Cabool on the Part of the British Government. As the Arrival of Sirdar Mehri Dil Khan from Candahar has given rise to new Subjects of Discussion, Mr. Burnes deems it due to all Parties, to the Ameer especially, once more to record the Objects of his Mission, in case they may have been (which is scarcely possible) misunderstood.

The Ameer need not be reminded, that in consequence of a Letter addressed by himself to Lord Auckland, setting forth his Differences with the Sikhs, expressing his Desire to form a Friendship with the British Government, that a Mission was deputed to Cabool; why? because his Lordship considered he could do Good to all Parties.

The Ameer need not be further reminded, that in the Letter alluded to no Mention was made of Persian Affairs; therefore the Mission was sent to Cabool without Instructions respecting such Matters. When the Persians came to Herat Mr. Burnes did not, however, leave Cabool, but remained with the Ameer, to show how much the British Government was his Well-wisher, for whatever may be necessary to be said on Persian Affairs will be said in Persia itself.

The Objects of this Mission have reference to other Matters; to the Differences between yourself and the Sikhs, to their Adjustment to the Honour and Satisfaction of all Parties, and that a Union between yourself and all your Brothers may strengthen you as a State, that under the strong Arm of British Friendship and Connexion you may in future be able to repel all Invaders and Enemies, for the powerful Enemies which now threaten the Country of the Affghans would have then retired. These were the Views of the British Government towards the Affghan Nation and its Rulers; they were full of Friendship and Disinterestedness; the Friendship, when concluded, was not likely to be diminished, but would have gone on increasing Day by Day. It was impossible to know the Fruits of Friendship before the Tree was planted; but

but Captain Burnes begs again to declare that the Intention of the British Government was to have planted that Tree and watched its Growth.

Captain Burnes cannot express his Anxiety too strongly that the Ameer will review all the Circumstances. The Propositions of the British Government were made in the full Confidence that they were those best suited to the State of Circumstances, and which, if agreed to, were the most likely to place the Affghan Nation in a State of Security from all Enemies. Hitherto the Ameer has not even acceded to the Preliminaries for arranging these Things, and brings forward Matters quite foreign to the Objects of the Mission, viz., Protection against Persia, from which there is no Fear, when the Differences among the Affghan Chiefs cease. The Justice of Lord Auckland's Proposition was obvious, for if the Ameer seeks certain good Offices from Two Governments, one of them only can give, and from one Government only can the Ameer receive, such good Offices. If the Ameer receive the good Offices of any Power to the West, he need not complain of being refused those of the British Government in his Difficulties hereafter.

In conclusion, Captain Burnes must express to the Ameer that as he was rejoiced at being deputed with such Propositions to the Ameer, so will he feel sincere Sorrow at carrying back to the Governor General the Ameer's Non-acquiescence in them; and as his Well-wisher he hopes that he never will see Cause to repent that he did not listen to them. The Ameer will observe, that he has the perfect Exercise of his Discretion, and that, if he considers the Governor General's views at variance with his Interests, he is the best Judge. It only seems due to the Ameer, and to Mr. Burnes himself, to repeat all these Circumstances, that there may be no Mistake hereafter, and that the Ameer may reflect well before he abandons the Friendship of the British Government, who wish him, and all the Affghan People, to be prosperous and happy. After all the Conversation which has passed, and the Letter which the Ameer sent to the Governor General, he would not now give the Ameer this Trouble; but the Conversation with Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan and other Persons makes Mr. Burnes very anxious that all Doubt of the Objects and Intentions of his Government should be removed; and he again states them in Writing. The Ameer knows best what suits his own Interests, and he knows also individually how much Mr. Burnes wishes him well.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

No. 2.—Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan to Captain Burnes.

23d April 1838.

A.C.—I have perused your Note, and understood its Contents. Though I have successively explained and placed all my Objects in your Mind, I repeat them again here to you.

After the Arrival of Abbas Meerza in Meshid, and his Subjection of Kokan and Shurukhs, as well as when Keramut Alea was appointed as a News-writer on the Part of the British Government at Cabool, I commenced a Correspondence with your Government, and every one expected great Advantages from the English.

When the Sikhs took possession of Peshawur, either with or without the Permission of Maharajah Runjeet Sing, I explained all the Circumstances minutely to the Governor General of India as well as to Captain Wade, and my Object was merely the Restoration of Peshawur.

The Correspondence which took place respecting Peshawur between myself and Maharajah Runjeet Sing I sent all to your Government through Mr. Masson. When the British Authorities got a Knowledge of my Wishes they kindly deputed you to this Quarter.

After the Conflict of the late Sirdar Huree Sing with my Son Sirdar Mahomed Akbar Khan a Correspondence passed between the latter and the Sikh Authorities, Copy of which I sent to you through Mr. Masson, and in every Place I have mentioned the Restoration of Peshawur.

On your Arrival, and the Inquiry which you made into my Wishes, I told you the same as I had written from the Beginning. Hopes arose of the Restoration of Peshawur. You made report upon my Views to Government, and what has taken place from that Day to this is well known to you.

(43.)

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No. 24.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
25th April 1838.

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No. 24.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
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 Governor General,
 25th April 1838.

Enclosures.

In the former Days of Distress, when I heard nothing from the British Government to cure my Pains, I was obliged to solicit pecuniary Aid of the Russian, Persian, and Toorkistan Governments, and from every Direction I received satisfactory Promises; but your Presence and the friendly Opinion which I entertained of the British Government made me abandon the Friendship of all others, which is no Secret from you; at length I saw no Signs of your sympathizing with me.

All the British Officers used to say and write that they are the Well-wishers of Affghanistan; and my Ideas were, that you would protect Affghanistan, which includes Herat, Candahar, Cabool, and Peshawur. When Mahomed Shah entered the Country of Herat you sent Mr. Leech to the Sirdars of Candahar, saying that you will assist them with Money and Troops. We then saw Good by connecting ourselves with the English, and thus made no firm Friendship with others.

On the Arrival of your Letter the Sirdars of Candahar abandoned the Design of sending their Son to Mahomed Shah, and valued it as a good Proof of your Sympathy to Affghanistan; but to this Day neither Peshawur is restored, nor have we been released from the impending Dangers of the Shah of Persia.

As you say that you are deputed to settle the Affairs of Peshawur, and have nothing to do with other Business, then on what Account have you sent Mr. Leech to Candahar? Before and after the Arrival of my Brother Sirdar Mehirdil Khan I always mentioned to you about the Restoration of Peshawur and Protection of Candahar against Persia. I have never spoken of any thing else foreign to Sympathy with Affghanistan. From the Beginning to the End the Contents of the Letters of your Government gave me great Hopes, and I expected the Restoration of Peshawur and the Protection of Affghanistan. To show this to the People I publicly solicited the above Favour, that every one should learn that you have sincere Sympathy with us.

Mankind have no Patience without obtaining their Objects, and as my Hopes on your Government are gone I will be forced to have recourse to other Governments. It will be for the Protection of Affghanistan, to save our Honour, and, God forbid, not from any ill Design towards the British.

You write that a Connexion with the Western Governments may create Disturbances here, and the Result of which will be Repentance. If the Return of my good Hopes is this, and such be the Law of the great, then all this Nation must rely upon God, in whose Hands are the Good and Ill of this World. The Affghans have done nothing wrong that other Governments should blame them, nor have they received any Injury from the English.

In making Friendship with any Government my Object will be to save and enlarge Affghanistan; and during these last Seven Months I have told you every thing worthy of Note, and you know the Good and Bad. Now I have consigned myself to God, and in this no Government can blame me. All the Affghans will be grateful to the Government which obliges them.

There is no more to say which is not said. If you like to speak in Person, or examine all the Correspondence that passed between us, there will be no Objection.

I am very much obliged to you for the Trouble you took to come so far. I expected very much from your Government, and hoped for the Protection and Enlargement of Affghanistan; now I am disappointed, which I attribute not to the ill Favour of the English, but my own bad Fortune.

Creatures must rely on the Creator.

No. 3.—Captain Burnes to the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan.

23d April 1838.

I have received your Note in reply to mine, and perfectly understand its Contents; it is useless therefore to repeat them. Two Points of Explanation are now only necessary, as relates to Peshawur and Candahar.

First, as to Peshawur:—You are well aware that my Design was to ascertain your Wishes and Dispositions, that the British Government might use its good Offices, when you became its Friend, to make a Peace between you and Maharajah Runjeet Sing, which should preserve the Honour of both Parties.

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This was the Hope that I gave you. As this Sympathy is not all which you wish it need not be further dwelt upon.

Second, as regards Candahar:—Truly I came here under a Hope of terminating your Differences with the Sikhs, the Result of which would bring many other Advantages to all Affghans, and also to your Brothers at Candahar, because the Chiefship of Candahar has Strength from your Strength. Seeing therefore that there was great Hope of terminating all future Differences between you and the Sikhs, it was incumbent on me to ask your Co-operation to prevent the Chiefs of Candahar going to Mahomed Shah; and you were pleased to write a Letter of Advice to them. I did the same, but a cold Reply was returned, saying that Mahomed Omar Khan had gone to Gherisk; that the Treaty made with Persia would do no Harm to you or the British. At length, after some Time, it was known here that this Son had not gone to Persia, and the Chiefs of Candahar changed their Mind, and expressed a Wish to join you, the Head of their Family, which was most advisable. On this I sent Mr. Leech to Candahar (first asking your Leave), that I might give them Confidence; and I made, in Truth, the Offers of Money to which you allude.

Before Mr. Leech or my Letters got to Candahar the Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan wrote to you that “the respectable Kohen Dil Khan wishes Mr. Burnes to come himself or send any of the Officers with him to Candahar, that we may learn each other’s Objects; and it will be no Harm if you endeavour to induce Mr. Burnes to do so.” These were the Reasons of sending Mr. Leech to Candahar.

When my Letter making the Offers which I did reached Candahar, the Sirdars, instead of accepting them, sent in reply, that “our Object in sending Mahomed Omar Khan to Persia was to keep off Mahomed Shah, and to ruin Kamram, and to make ourselves the Masters of Herat; and it was not from Fear that His Majesty would invade Candahar. We have now postponed the Departure of Mahomed Omar Khan, hoping that Evil may befall Kamram.” What is the Meaning of this, I ask? let the Ameer be Judge. It is a Refusal of the Money, and a Declaration that the Chiefs of Candahar do not fear Persia but Kamram. Now it is reversed.

In Truth the British Government wishes to protect Affghanistan, and prevent any Injury befalling it; but it is proper to make Peace near at hand before doing so at a Distance; and such are the Sentiments of the Governor General. Till Peshawur Affairs are settled it is needless to talk of Candahar further than that an Officer of the British Government is now there to show to all the World that the Affghans and English are One; and the Ameer well knows that Two neighbouring States, the Sikhs and Sindians, had their Differences lately settled by the Presence of an Officer of the British.

It now appears that the Ameer is not satisfied with the good Offices tendered by the British Government, and does not rely on it. It is the Duty of all the Creatures of God to rely on God, as the Ameer justly says; but, as the Note of the Ameer is a clear Dismissal of the Mission sent to him, I shall be ready to have my Audience of Leave whenever the Ameer may fix a Time; and I beg that the Ameer will now do me the Favour to give Orders for Carriage being provided for my Baggage as far as Peshawur. I will also send Orders to Lieutenant Leech to leave Candahar without Delay.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

V.

No. 24.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
25th April 1838.

Enclosures.

No. 25.

Lord AUCKLAND to the Ameer DOST MAHOMED KHAN.

After Compliments.

Simla, 27th April 1838.

I HAVE received your Letter, and fully comprehend its Contents.

It has been a Source of much Regret to me to find that your Views of what is most for your Advantage have led you to decline the good Offices which I have tendered, for the Purpose of effecting a Reconciliation between you and Maharajah Runjeet Sing, on the only Terms on which I could, consistently with what has appeared to me just, engage to exercise my Mediation for the Settlement of the unhappy Differences existing between you.

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No. 25.

Lord Auckland
to the
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
27th April 1838.

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No. 25.
Lord Auckland
to the
Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan,
27th April 1838.

With the Explanation, however, of your Sentiments which you have now afforded to me, my further Interposition in this Affair could not lead to beneficial Results; and as, in so unsettled a Condition of Things, the Continuance of Captain Burnes, and of the Officers under his Orders, in Affghanistan, would not be conducive to the good Ends which I had hoped to accomplish by their Deputation, I have now issued Orders to them to return to India; and they will accordingly set out on receiving from you their Dismissal, for which their immediate Application will be made to you.

I have to express to you my Acknowledgments for your Attention and Kindness to these Officers while residing in your Dominions.

(Signed) AUCKLAND.

No. 26.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 26.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
30th April 1838.

(Extract.)

Jelalabad, 30th April 1838.

ON the Night of the 25th of April I had the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Hon. the Governor General, that I had had my Audience of Leave with the Ameer of Cabool; and I quitted the City on the following Day (the 26th), being escorted about Two Miles from its Gates by Three of the Ameer's Sons, and also accompanied to the first Halting-place, Bootkhak, by Meerza Samee Khan. It is now my Purpose to lay before his Lordship such additional Particulars as illustrate the Opinions of Dost Mahomed Khan, and the Views which it seems he has in contemplation, and which, since we can no longer act with him, will, as it appears to me, require Counteraction.

I inquired into the Truth of the Reports in circulation regarding the Ameer having actually gone over to Persia and sought the Security of Russia. The Reply was, that they were too true. I asked what had really occurred, and learned that some of the Ameer's Family, or that of his Brothers at Candahar, were to be sent with Letters to the Shah; that Captain Vickovitch had promised to get the Guarantee of Russia to all their Arrangements; that when Herat fell, either to send Part of the Persian Force through the Hazarehjat to Cabool, or furnish the Ameer with Money to expel the Sikhs from Peshawur, which he had said was the more easily to be exacted from the Shah, who was a large Debtor to Russia.

I said that there appeared so much Folly in all that was proposed that I could not credit such to be the Fact, particularly when I considered the religious Disinclination of the Affghans towards Persia. The Reply was, that all the Soonees of Cabool were horror-struck at the Design, and that there will be more Opposition than the Ameer anticipated; but such Plans were certainly in contemplation, whatever they might come to.

It will be remembered that the Ameer, in my last Interview with him, offered no Palliation of the Intercourse which he had had within the few last Days with Captain Vickovitch; and though he did not, of course, state the Nature of it, I have had Intelligence of it that leaves little or no Doubt on the Subject.

Captain Vickovitch has already asked Leave to set out forthwith for Herat. Such a Circumstance might excite a Suspicion in the Mind of the Ameer and his Advisers, that, after his succeeding in disturbing his Friendship with the British, he had probably gained his Objects, and that his Wish to withdraw was founded thereupon; but this Thought does not appear to have occurred; and most certainly, whatever are the Plans of Persia and Russia, it will now be no Fault of the Chief of Cabool if they come not to Maturity. He still gives out that he would not trust Persia alone, but, seconded by M. Goutte and Captain Vickovitch, he considers the Russian Guarantee will gain for him all his Ends, and, besides being able successfully to contend with the Sikhs, as certain of ministering to his Ambition and fixing his Supremacy.

On the Morning of the 27th, before I set out from the first Halting-place, I was visited by Meerza Samee Khan, who came to take his Leave, and present me

me with Two Horses from the Ameer. He pretended to be distressed at all that had occurred; said that Sirdar Mehirdil Khan had brought it about; but he did not conceal that he thought neither the Ameer nor the Candahar Family had been appreciated, since it was not actually a Sum of Money they wished, but a Promise of Protection from the West, for withstanding the Offers of those who had Power to injure them. He consequently defended the Conduct of the Ameer. He asked me, when I avoided all Particulars by making general Remarks, if there was any Chance of Matters being yet adjusted with our Government, and I replied, that now I saw no Prospect whatever, though I only spoke from myself. He then asked if I would reply to any Letters he or the Ameer might hereafter send to me, and I said that such would depend upon Circumstances. I desired him to convey my personal Thanks to Dost Mahomed Khan for his personal Civilities to my Companions and myself, and when I said nothing more he asked if I had no other Message to convey to the Ameer. I said, none, save that I feared he would soon find out he was trusting to those who could not befriend him.

Two Days March from Cabool, I received the enclosed Letter to the Address of the Governor General from the Ameer. The Ameer informed me on leaving him that he would write to his Lordship, and simply notify that he had dismissed me; but Sirdar Mehirdil Khan, finding that the Soonee Party laid all the Blame upon him, and that the whole mercantile Community were roused at my Departure, which they as publicly expressed to myself as to Dost Mahomed Khan, prevailed upon the Ameer's allowing him to set forth at Length the Affairs of Candahar in his own Justification; and the singular Sentiments are exhibited of claiming Fulfilment of the Treaty said to have been entered into by Mr. Elphinstone with the former Dynasty of Suddozye Kings. The Interpretation of a Sympathy with the Affghans on the Part of the British Government also receives the widest Interpretation; and it is on this Manner that Dost Mahomed, in the Document appended to my Letter of the 25th instant, infers the Views of Government, when he directly says, that "from the Beginning to the End the Content of the Letters of your Government gave me great Hopes, and I expected the Restoration of Peshawur and the Protection of Affghanistan." Of course such Matters were never promised him, nor have I the first Letter of the present Governor General to the Ameer to refer to on which they are founded, no Doubt erroneously; but our Policy in Persia has raised up among Affghans and all Asiatics the Hope of most substantial Assistance whenever Sympathy is spoken of.

It is, however, useless to dwell further on what were either the Hopes or Expectations of the Ameer and his Family. No Arguments drawn from my Presence or that of Mr. Leech at Candahar being Proofs of our Sympathy would satisfy them; nor would they view the Cessation of Hostilities at Peshawur, the clear Result of such Presence, in that Light, but demanded of me a clear explicit Pledge of Protection from Persia, or Money to raise Troops to protect themselves, which I could not grant. Mehirdil Khan is, without Doubt, a Man of Talent, and it was readily perceivable in his Intercourse with me; but I had a Message conveyed to me from Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan, the Chief of Candahar, that he would rather come himself to Cabool, if any Treaty were to be entered upon. Mehirdil Khan, therefore, in so strongly urging the Candahar Question, quite overlooked that of Peshawur; and the Peace at the latter City seems to have rendered the Ameer less solicitous about Sikh Affairs, and hence the untimely Termination of these Negotiations. An Affghan cannot be disposed to understand the moral Influence of British Power, and Arguments unsupported by Acts have no Weight in Cabool; and it is to be remembered that the menacing Attitude of Persia sharpens the Apprehensions of the Affghan Chiefs. The Ameer too, I hear, always states in his own Version of the Proceedings that he refused to send for the Persian Elchee to Cabool, threatened to break with Candahar if the Chiefs there sent their Son to Persia, and finally exposed the whole of Captain Vickovitch's Intrigue, all of which was known to the Governor General when he wrote the Letter delivered to him on the 22d of February, but for which he received no Acknowledgment, and for which I would not even promise him Protection from the Shah, whom he had done so much to offend.

As I am despatching this Communication from Jelalabad, Half Way to Peshawur, I have received good Information that the Ameer has been constantly

V.

No. 26.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
30th April 1838.

V.

No. 26.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 30th April 1838.

stantly with Captain Vickovitch since I left; and that Officer has earnestly solicited Permission to proceed to Herat by the Direction of Hazarehjat, and offered the solemn Pledges to do all which the Ameer wishes under a Month. He has also bound himself to address Maharajah Runjeet Sing about retiring from Peshawur; and when Dost Mahomed Khan asked if he had Authority to do so, he replied that he had a Letter from the Emperor to that Potentate which would soon set Matters right. That all this has been promised, and the Conversation now reported has taken place I do not doubt, but it remains to be seen what will be the Performance; but I can rely on my Informant, and his Intelligence is in corroboration of former Reports.

No. 27.

Ameer DOST MAHOMED KHAN to Lord AUCKLAND; received at Jugduluck,
 28th April 1838, by Captain Burnes.

No. 27.
 Ameer Dost
 Mahomed Khan
 to
 Lord Auckland,
 28th April 1838.

After Compliments.

ALL the Conversation which has passed between Captain Burnes and myself from the Day of his Arrival is well known to your Lordship, and consequently it is needless to repeat it.

In the Month of Zeekaud I send to your Lordship a Letter on the Affairs of this Place; it is now the Month of Safar, or nearly Three Months that your Lordship has not favoured me with its Answer. I also wrote a second Time respecting the Determination of the King of Persia, and the Expectations of this friendly Nation (Affghans) for the Protection and Enlargement of their Possessions, which it had hoped from the British Government for a long Time.

It was my first Desire that there should be Peace between the Affghans and Sikhs, and that the Country of Peshawur, which is the native Place of this Nation, should be restored through the good Offices of the English. When the Shah of Persia came to take Herat, which, along with the Country of Candahar, is the Abode of the Affghans, I asked Captain Burnes to point out the Remedy against the Persians, since the English are noted for sympathizing with the Affghans. In reply he promised us pecuniary Aid for Troops, and also wrote to the Sirdars of Candahar about it, and sent Mr. Leech to assure them; all of which I know has been reported to your Lordship.

After passing some Period, Captain Burnes, whether by your Lordship's Order or for some other Reason, wrote to the Sirdars of Candahar, and refused to assist them. It is now Eight Months since Captain Burnes came into this Country, and about Five Months have elapsed since the Persians have besieged Herat; the Expectations of the Country of Peshawur being restored or Candahar protected against the Persians, which were entertained for a long Time, are gone now from the Hearts of the Affghans. All of the People of this Nation which were residing in the Country of Herat have been obliged to desert from their native Abodes and settle themselves in the Districts of Candahar for fear of the Persians.

Mehir Dil Khan came to Cabool to consult on the Proceedings of this Quarter, and asked Captain Burnes to apply a Remedy, and release Candahar from the Danger of the Persians. Until this considerable Nation of the Affghans do receive evident and clear Signs of Sympathy from the British they cannot be supposed to have Confidence in it.

If there should be Peace on the East, and Peshawur restored through the good Offices of the English, the Sirdars of Peshawur, Cabool, and Candahar might advance to Herat. To save their own Honour they (the Affghans) would behave in such a brave Way that no Danger could have accrued from the Persians. If the Restoration of Peshawur required a longer Time it was no Harm in saying so; but it was necessary that Captain Burnes should give pecuniary Assistance, that we might be able to protect Herat, and, if unsuccessful, certainly to save Candahar from the Persians. Captain Burnes gave us no Assurance on the above-mentioned Subjects; perhaps he has no Power to do so.

Since

Since Captain Burnes's Arrival we have done every thing according to his Advice. The Sirdars of Candahar prevented their Son going to the Shah by his Letters, and none of us have hitherto contracted Friendship with any other Power. It is well known to your Lordship that the Affghans expected very much from the English from the Day Mr. Elphinstone came to Affghanistan, for that Gentleman made a Treaty with the Affghans of the following Nature :—

1st. That the Affghans should not allow the united Powers (French and Persians) to pass through Affghanistan for an Invasion of the British Possessions in India, but most oppose those Powers on the Part of the English.

2d. That when the French and Persians come to subdue Affghanistan, the British will give them pecuniary Assistance.

The Time has now arrived that the Affghans should be done by according to the Second Article of the above Treaty; but alas! the whole of this Nation is disappointed in what they were so long expecting. The British Government has given to us Aid of no Kind, notwithstanding our abstaining from Friendship with other Powers. I have really done so, and intended to do so; but your Agent Captain Burnes, not having the Power, neither gave us happy News of the Restoration of Peshawur nor of Protection from the Persians.

Since Captain Burnes discovered that the Affghans were quite disappointed, and he has no Powers from your Lordship to satisfy this Nation, he is now returning to India with my Permission.

When Captain Burnes reaches India he will minutely speak to your Lordship on all the Circumstances of this Place. There are many Individuals who have enjoyed the Favour of the British; but our Disappointment is to be attributed to our Misfortune, and not to the Want of the British Government.

What is worthy of the good Name of the British Government, it I hope will come to pass in future.

2 Safar, A.H. 1254, Friday.

V.

No. 27.

Ameer Dost
Mahomed Khan
to
Lord Auckland,
28th April 1838.

VI.

No. 1.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Camp near Jelalabad, 9th September 1837.

I now proceed to lay before the Right Honourable the Governor General in Council a Report on the recent Intercourse of Candahar with Russia and Persia, founded on Documents and Information which I consider authentic.

Immediately on the Receipt of the Despatches from our Ambassador in Persia, at Dera Ghazee Khan, in June last, I despatched a Messenger to Candahar to inquire into the State of Affairs there.

That I might neutralize, as far as was then in my Power, the Results which might flow from the Arrival of a Persian Elchee at that City, I addressed the Chief of Candahar (Kohen Dil Khan) and his Two Brothers, and made known to them the Views contemplated by his Lordship in Council by my Deputation West of the Indus. I availed myself of this Opportunity to seek an Account of the State of Affairs in that Country, and my Messengers returned Yesterday.

The principal Chief of Candahar was absent when the Courier arrived, but his Brothers Kehem Dil and Mehir Dil Khans have forwarded to me Letters expressive of their highest Satisfaction at the Prospect of meeting an Agent of the British Government, and the Reply of their elder Brother is promised immediately on his Return to the City. How far these Professions of Satisfaction tally with what is hereafter given his Lordship in Council will be best able to judge.

My private Correspondents narrate, in circumstantial Detail, the whole Affair of the Persian Elchee's Arrival, Reception, and Treatment, as well as the fullest Particulars regarding the Change of Presents and Letters between the Chief of Candahar and the Russian Ambassador at Tehran.

The Foundation of the Intercourse between Candahar and Russia is to be traced to Abbas Khan, the Son of the Shatir Bashee of Shah Kamran, who fled from Herat to Tehran about Two Years ago, and became at that Capital the Guest of the Russian Ambassador.

Abbas Khan, possessing some Influence with the Chiefs of Candahar, sent a secret Message to them by his Servant Meer Mahomed, suggesting that it would be greatly to their Advantage if they addressed the Russian Minister at Tehran; and they accordingly charged Tej Mahomed Khan, an Envoy whom they had deputed to the Shah of Persia, with a Letter to the Russian Ambassador, the Contents of which were as follows:—

“That the Sirdars of Candahar were sincerely anxious to enter into a friendly Connexion with Russia, as Family Differences had long existed among them, and in consequence of these, that Runjeet Sing, the Sikh Chieftain of Lahore, had seized much of their Country; that Money alone was wanted to expel him, for Troops they had in Abundance, but not the Means to pay them; and that they hoped for such Assistance from Russia.”

This Letter was delivered into the Hands of the Russian Minister at Tehran, to whom Tej Mahomed Khan was introduced by Abbas Khan, and at the same Time he delivered a Fur Cloak (Posteen), ornamented with Gold, from the Chief of Candahar. The Russian Minister expressed great Satisfaction at the Receipt of this Letter, and directed a Likeness of Tej Mahomed Khan to be taken, which he said he would forward to St. Petersburg.

Some Time after the Arrival of this Envoy, the Shah deputed Kumber Alee Khan as his Elchee to Candahar and Cabool, the Copy of whose Instructions and Credentials are already before Government. Along with him the Candahar Envoy started, and the Russian Minister gave him a Letter to the Chief, expressing his great Satisfaction at the friendly Sentiments he had communicated, and dismissed him with a Message suggesting that Kohen Dil Khan should send his Son to Tehran, and that an Elchee of Russia would return the Compliment in the following Year, when any Money that could be spared would be despatched to satisfy the Wants of the Candahar Chief. By this Opportunity Presents were sent by the Russian Minister to the Candahar Chiefs.

VI.

No. 1.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
9th Sept, 1837.

VI.

No. 1.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
9th Sept. 1837.

In Company of Tej Mahomed Khan came Meer Mahomed, the Servant of Abbas Khan; and on reaching Candahar all the Sirdars treated him with the highest Distinction, and personally visited him, which is quite unusual. It is stated publicly that he is an Agent of Russia.

Before the Circumstances transpired, and the Persian Elchee reached Candahar, the Ameer of Cabool addressed his Brothers of Candahar, apprizing them of the Contents of the Letter which he had received from the Governor General regarding my Mission to Cabool, and suggested the Propriety of deputing one of their Number to Cabool to be present at any Conference that might take place; and his Reason for doing so was, that he wished to act fairly by them. It was resolved, therefore, to send Mehir Dil Khan to Cabool; but immediately that Tej Mahomed arrived from Tehran with the Persian Elchee, all Arrangements have been suspended, and the Journey to Cabool is now postponed sine die.

Various Surmises have occurred to the Chiefs of Candahar regarding the Objects of the British Government and the Invitation of their Brother of Cabool. The Subject has been one of common Conversation, and it appears that the Candahar Family, who are not cordial with Cabool, considered that any Conference there could only have reference to Peshawur, a Restoration of which might not benefit themselves. They also considered that they might make themselves useful to the British Government independent of Cabool, if their Intrigues to the West fail; but be their Reasons what they may, they wish to be dealt with separately; but what is more important than this Determination is the Deputation of another Envoy on their Part to Tehran, by Name Hajee Mobeen, who has just set out, and that too in pursuance, as it is believed, of Advice of the Russian Ambassador, for it has been given out that a Son of Kohen Dil Khan will follow, and that the Candahar Sirdars will attack Herat.

This Envoy is the Bearer of a Letter to the Shah from the Candahar Chiefs, the Substance of which is said to be as follows:—

That the British Government has deputed one of its Officers to Cabool; but that they, the Chiefs of Candahar, command the Road to and from Herat, and not the Chief of Cabool, who is engaged in the Affairs of Peshawur, and has it not in his Power to serve the Shah; that they are prepared to move to Herat whenever the Persian Army is ready, and also to send a Son of the Sirdar to Tehran, and keep aloof from all Friendship with the English Nation.

Along with this Communication the Persian Elchee has written to His Majesty the Shah, stating that it is Candahar alone which can serve him, and, seeing such to be the Case, he has met their Wishes, and staid at Candahar.

As reported in my Letter of the 1st ultimo, Kumber Alee Khan, the Persian Envoy, has reached Candahar.

He was received with great Pomp and Distinction, and conducted into the City by the Chiefs in Person; since they have continued to entertain him, but he has made no Progress on his Way to Cabool, seldom leaves his House, and seems likely to continue at Candahar.

No. 2.

Captain ALEXANDER BURNES, employed on a Mission to Cabool, to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India with the Governor General.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 15th November 1837.

No. 2.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
15th Nov. 1837.

I do myself the Honour to transmit, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, the Copy of a Letter received some Time since by the Ameer of Cabool from his Excellency Count Simonich, the Russian Ambassador at Tehran, likewise one from the Ameer's Agent forwarding the same. I append Translations of these Documents.

His Lordship in Council is already aware, by the Despatches of Her Majesty's Ambassador in Persia, that a Communication was also addressed by the Russian Ambassador to the Chief of Candahar. A double Opportunity is now offered of judging of the Designs and Intentions of Russia in this Quarter.

If any thing were wanting to bear out the Correctness of Mr. McNeill's Views, as expressed in his Despatch of the 30th June last to Her Majesty's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, regarding the Encouragement given to Persia by Russia to extend her Influence to the Countries Eastward, these Papers now forwarded carry the clearest Proof of it, for the Russian Ambassador himself commences the Correspondence with the Chief of Cabool, and tells him that if the Shah of Persia will not assist him that his Court is ready to do so.

VI.
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No. 2.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
15th Nov. 1837.

First Enclosure in No. 2.

The Russian Ambassador at Tehran to Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabool.

A. C.

In these happy Days the respectable Hajee Ibrahim Khan, one of your People, arrived at the Door of His Majesty the Shah. He has now got Leave to return to you, and I embrace the Opportunity to write to you, being induced to do so by the Praises which I am always hearing of you, and the friendly Conversation which has passed between your Man and myself. Through him, therefore, I send this friendly Letter, and hope that you in future will keep up a Correspondence with me.

Considering me your Friend, I trust that you will strengthen the Bonds of Friendship by writing to me, and freely commanding my Services, as I shall always be happy to do any thing for you.

Look upon me as your Servant, and let me hear from you.

(Sealed.) GRAF IWAN SIMONICH,
Minister Plenipotentiary of the Russian Government.

Enclosure No. 1.

Second Enclosure in No. 2.

Letter to Ameer of Cabool, forwarding the preceding, from Hajee Ibrahim, his Agent at Tehran.

A. C.

I reached the Camp of the Shah in the Month of Jumad-ool-wal. When His Majesty learned the Contents of your Letter he was happy and kind to me; at that Time the Shah was at Chushma Ali, Seven Marches from Tehran, near Dam Ghan; he stated that on arriving at Khalpush he would discharge me with some Messages to you. On his reaching Khalpush he went to punish the Turkomans, and I accompanied His Majesty as desired. When we returned to Sharood the Winter set in, and the Shah, by the Advice of his Counsellors, left his Artillery there, abandoned the Intention of going to Herat this Year, and returned to Tehran. He ordered his Nobles to get ready by Noo-Roz for an Expedition to Herat.

The Shah directed me to inform you that he will shortly send an Elchee, who, after meeting you, will proceed to Runjeet Sing to explain to him, on the Part of the Shah, that if he (Runjeet) will not restore all the Affghan Countries to you, the Ameer, he must be prepared to receive the Persian Army. When the Shah takes Herat he has promised to send you Money and any Troops you want.

The Russian Ambassador, who is always with the Shah, has sent you a Letter, which I enclose. The Substance of his verbal Messages to you is, that if the Shah does every thing you want, so much the better, and if not, the Russian Government will furnish you (the Ameers) with every thing wanting.

The Object of the Russian Elchee by this Message is to have a Road to the English (India), and for this they are very anxious. He is waiting for your Answer, and I am sure he will serve you. The Letter you sent through Aga Mahomed Kashee pleased the Shah very much, and he (Mahomed Hoossein) will soon return to you.

The Ausef-ud-Dowlah, the Ruler of Khorassan, has written to the Shah that he saw Yar Mahomed Khan on this Side of Furrah; he says that he has not Power to oppose the Shah, but he will not serve him until the Shah gives him Money to take Candahar and Cabool.

I send you the Letter (Firmaun) of the Shah, which will, I trust, meet Approbation.

No. 3.

VI.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 3.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 19th Nov. 1837.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 19th November 1837.

WITHOUT waiting for the Reply of my Communication to the Chief of Candahar, I consider it advisable to despatch by this Opportunity the annexed Document, which purports to be the Heads of a Treaty between the Shah of Persia and the Sirdars of Candahar. I have seen the original Paper, which arrived here a few Days ago, so that there is no Doubt of its Authenticity.

On the Afternoon of the 15th instant I was specially invited by the Ameer to the Bala Hissar, and had an Opportunity of conversing with Dost Mahomed Khan on Matters of some Moment, as well as the Subject of this Paper. He proceeded to inform me that its Contents had given him great Dissatisfaction, and that probably a corresponding Feeling would arise in the Mind of the British Government on account of it; that it was very evident there was some Crisis at hand in the Affairs to the West; and that Herat certainly, and Candahar probably, would fall into the Hands of Persia, if some Arrangement was not speedily entered into to check her Approach; as it was very clear from every Account that Persia could not of herself act in this Manner, she must be assisted by Russia.

I observed, that among other very dubious Portions of the Treaty was a Promise that the British Ambassador in Persia would see its Terms fulfilled. On this Point I found myself at liberty to state most unhesitatingly that no such Promise would be fulfilled, and that an unjustifiable Use had been made of the Name of the British Government in that Document, since it was contrary to its Policy to hew down Herat for the Benefit of Candahar. I could not also help observing, that the whole of the Stipulations seemed in favour of Candahar, and I questioned very much the Authority on which the Persian Elchee had made them.

Note from Moolla Abdool Reshid, the Chief Manager of Kohen Dil Khan of Candahar, to the Address of Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabool.

The Treaty which the Sirdars have made with Kumber Alee Khan is as follows:—When Taj Mahomed Khan was at Tehran the Shah spoke to him about Herat, and promised if any of the Brothers sent one of their Sons to him, and he was assured of their Fidelity, he would give them Herat, and never intrude upon the Country of the Affghans. The Persian Troops will be considered as under the Sirdars. We are never to make Friendship with Kamran. The Expedition for the taking of Herat must be undertaken according to the Wishes of the Sirdars. Whatever Number of Forces, either small or large, are required for Assistance, the Shah is to furnish them, and they are to be under us. On the Arrival of Mahomed Omar Khan at Tehran, with Kumber Alee Khan, the Treaty made here must be shown by the Shah to the Ambassadors of Russia and England. They, with the Two Viziers of the Shah, are to witness it, and be responsible for the Oath, also for the Manner in which the Shah receives Mahomed Omar Khan. The Shah will then send us Money for the Expenses of 12,000 Cavalry and Twenty-four Guns. When every thing for the Troops is completed we are to march and encamp at Furash Road. On our Arrival there one of the Two Viziers of the Shah must come to us with Kumber Alee Khan, and bring Money for the Troops. The Vizier is also to convince us of the Preservation of the Articles of the Treaty on the Part of the Shah. After this, Sirdar Mehirdil Khan is to accompany the Vizier to the Shah at Meshid, and whatever Number of Troops he may want he is to take from the Shah, and then march against Herat, the Expenses of the Army being paid by the Shah. By the Grace of God, when Herat is conquered, we are to be left Masters of it. After taking the City, the Shah requires from us in return that whenever he may have any Civil War in Persia we must assist him. Such are the Articles of the Treaty, which after it bears the Seals of the Shah's Two Viziers, and the Russian and English Ambassadors, must be returned to us. Mahomed is going for this Purpose; but we do not know what are the Wishes of God, and what will happen.

No. 4.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 20th December 1837.

I HAVE the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, a very extraordinary Piece of Intelligence, of the Arrival in this City Yesterday of an Agent direct from Russia.

VI.
No. 4.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
20th Dec. 1837.

On the 11th instant I received a Notification of his Approach from my Correspondent at Candahar, in the Terms reported in the annexed Letter, No. 1., and on the 13th instant the Ameer received the Information conveyed in the Enclosure No. 2. A Circumstance of so unusual a Nature prevented my sending off an Express to you till I could be better informed.

First Enclosure in No. 4.

Abstract of Intelligence received from Candahar on the 11th December 1837.

Yesterday I went to see the Sirdar agreeably to his Desire, and met a Horseman of Gherisk, with a Persian Escort. They brought Information that another Persian Elchee was coming, and delivered a Letter to Moolla Nussou. He told me that was not a Persian Embassy, but an Elchee from the Russian Government, or from the Russian Ambassador of Tehran. The Letter was from Hajee Mobeen, and he has not come himself. The Russian Elchee is named Marana: he may be Armenian, but not a Persian. The Sirdars sent Two Horsemen to receive him on the Road, and bring him into the City with Consideration.

Enclosure No. 1.

When I am perfectly acquainted with the Affairs of the Russian Elchee, or Three Days after, I will write to you minutely.

Sirdar Rehem Dil Khan has become friendly with his Brother, and lives in one Place.

Second Enclosure in No. 4.

Moolla Reshid, the Counsellor of Kohen Dil Khan of Candahar, to Ameer Mahomed Khan, Agent or Naib of Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabool.—
(Received on the 13th Day of December 1837.)

(Extract.)

We have heard nothing new of the Persian Siege of Herat since the First of Ramazan (Fourteen Days ago), except that which I wrote to you before.

Enclosure No. 2.

The fresh Intelligence I wrote to you, that at the Noon on the 28th of Shaban (Seventeen Days ago), Tuesday, an Elchee arrived here from Russia. Leaving the Rarities of that Country in Tehran, he came to the Camp of Mahomed Shah Kajar, and after seeing His Majesty he passed through Birjird Jawer, Lash, and Seistan, on Way to Ahmed Shahee (Candahar). He is a Man of Moscow, and stands high in the Favour of the Emperor. The Russian Ambassador at Tehran has sent a List of the Presents with his Letter to the Sirdars, which this Elchee left in his Charge, on account of the Disorders of the Road between Tehran and Candahar. As he looks a confidential Person, I think he will do every thing for the Sirdars. We have heard nothing of the Results of the Arrangements which Mr. Burnes is making at Cabool.

As Mahomed Shah intends to take Herat, so he has left the English and Russian Ambassadors at Tehran. Meerza Massood, the Minister of His Majesty, is also with them. The Assistants of both the Ambassadors are in the Camp of Mahomed Shah.

Mahomed Omar Khan and the Persian Elchee are still at Gherisk.

VI.

Third Enclosure in No. 4.

No. 4.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
20th Dec. 1837.
Enclosure No. 3.

Moolla Reshid, the Counsellor of Kohen Dil Khan Sirdar, to Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan.—(Received at Cabool on the 19th December 1837.)

(Extract.)

An Ambassador on the Part of Russia came to Tehran, and has been appointed to wait on the Sirdars at Candahar, and thence to proceed to the Presence of the Ameer. He paid his Respects to Mahomed Shah at Nishapoor, and passing through Kayanat Lash and Jawer, Seistan and Gnoursail, arrived at Ahmed Shahee (Candahar). He is the Bearer of Letters from the Russian Ambassador at Tehran.

The Russian Ambassador recommends this Man to be a most trusty Individual, and to possess full Authority to make any Negotiation. Captain Burnes will undoubtedly comprehend the real Motives of this Elchee.

The Conduct and Appearance of this Man Elchee seems to infer that he possesses no less Dignity and Honour than Captain Burnes; and whatever Arrangements he may make will be agreeable to the Russian Ambassador. You have now both the English and Russian Ambassadors at your Court. Please to settle Matters with any of them who you think may do some good Office hereafter.

By the Conversation of this Man Elchee it appears that Mahomed Shah is neither assisted nor induced by the Russians, and is come of himself to try his Fortunes. You should receive him with Consideration, as he is a Man of Consequence. He has got Four Horsemen with himself, and will remain but a few Days in Cabool. Sher Mahomed has been sent by the Sirdars to conduct him to you. The Russians and the Persians are separately anxious to promote their respective Designs in that Quarter.

P.S. When this Russian Elchee reaches Cabool show him Respect, and it will rouse the Mind of Alexander Burnes. His Appearance will also induce him (Mr. Burnes) to be sharp, and to put off Delay in promoting Objects.

No. 5.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 5.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
22d Dec. 1837.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 22d December 1837.

With reference to my Letter of the 20th instant, I have now the Honour to inform you, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, that the Individual who has arrived here from St. Petersburg is a veritable Agent of Russia; and brings Letters from the Shah of Persia and Count Simonich. He is designated as Captain Vickovitch.

I have the Honour to enclose the following Copies of Documents in explanation of the Appearance of this Person, with Translations:—

A Letter from Dost Mahomed Khan to the Emperor of Russia.

A Ruckum from the Shah of Persia to Dost Mahomed Khan.

A Letter from Count Simonich to the same.

I have addressed a confidential Letter to his Lordship the Governor General of India regarding these Documents and the Russian Agent who has brought them.

First Enclosure in No. 5.

Enclosure No. 1.

Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabool to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia; transmitted viâ Bokhara by Meerza Hoosain Hoosein Caboollee, about the Beginning of 1836.

A. C.

There have been great Differences and Quarrels between myself and the Royal House of the Suddozyes. The English Government is inclined to support Shooja-ool-Moolk. The whole of India is governed by them, and they are on friendly Terms with Runjeet Sing, the Lord of the Punjaub, which lies in their Neighbourhood. The British Government exhibit no favourable Opinions towards me.

I (literally

I (literally the Creature of God), with all my Power, have been always fighting with the Sikhs. Your Imperial Government has made Friendship with the Persians; and if your Majesty will graciously be pleased to arrange Matters in the Affghan Country, and assist this Nation (which amounts to Twenty Lacs of Families), you will place me under Obligations.

I hope your Imperial Majesty will do me the Favour by allowing me to be received, like the Persians under the Protection of the Government of Russia, under your Royal Protection. Can perform along with my Affghans various praiseworthy Services.

It would be highly proper whatever your Imperial Majesty may be pleased to do.

VI.

No. 5.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
22d Dec. 1837.

Enclosure No. 1.

Second Inclosure in No. 5.

Mahomed Shah's Ruckum to Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabool.—
(Received on the 20th December 1837.)

A. C.

Agreeably to my Affection and kindly Feelings towards you, I wish to bestow great Favours on you, and anxiously wait to hear from you.

In these Days the respectable Captain Vickovitch, having been appointed by my esteemed Brother the Emperor of Russia to attend your Court, paid his Respects on his Way, stating he had been honoured by his Imperial Majesty to deliver some Messages to you: on this I felt it incumbent on me to remember you by the Despatch of this Ruckum, to convince you that your Well-wishers are deeply engraven in my Mind.

Considering the Favours of my Majesty attached to you, let me hear occasionally from you; and by rendering good Services you will obtain the Protection of this Royal House.

Enclosure No. 2.

Third Enclosure in No. 5.

Count Simonich, the Russian Ambassador at Tehran, to Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan of Cabool.—(Received on the 20th December 1837.)

(Extract.)

The respectable P. Vickovitch will wait upon you with this Letter.

Your Agent Hajee Hoosain Alee has been attacked by a severe Illness, and therefore he stopped at Moscow; when the Intelligence of his bad Health was conveyed to the Emperor, a good Physician was ordered to attend and cure him as soon as possible. On his recovering I will not fail to facilitate him in his long Journey back to Cabool.

Knowing your Anxiety to hear from this Quarter, I have hastened to despatch the Bearer to you. He was ordered to accompany your Agent to Cabool. I hope on his Arrival at your Court that you will treat him with Consideration, and trust him with your Secrets. I beg you will look upon him like myself, and take his Words as if they were from me. In case of his Detention at Cabool you will allow him often to be in your Presence; and let my Master know, through me, about your Wishes, that Anxiety may be removed.

Though the great Distance has been preventing the Continuance of my Correspondence with you, I am always very happy to respect and serve your Friends to show my friendly Opinions towards you.

The Cause of our often hearing from each other merely depends upon our Friendship and Acquaintance.

I have some Russian Rarities to forward to you. As the Bearer (P. Vickovitch) is lightly equipped, it was beyond his Power to take them along with him; but I will take the first Opportunity to convey them safely to you, and now have the Pleasure to send you the under-mentioned List of them.

Enclosure No. 3.

VI.

No. 5.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
22d Dec. 1837.
Enclosure No. 3.

First Kind of Samoor.

	Piece.		Piece.
Gilt and silvered Cloth	- 1	Parcha Huzir, WhitewithGoldFlower	1
Cloth with do. flowered	- 1	Alachah with Gold Flower	- 1
Do. with gilt do.	- 1	Do. Yellow and Silver Do.	- 1
Do. with Green gilt Flowers	- 1	Do. Red with Green	- 1
Zari Abi with gilt Do.	- 1	Do. light Blue	- 1
Do. Firmaz of Gold	- 1	Do. with Red Flower	- 1
Do. Do. of Silver	- 1	Do. Green	- 1
Parcha Huzir Red and White	- 1	Do. Banassh	- 1
Do. painted	- 1	Do. Red and light Blue	- 1

No. 6.

Captain BURNES to Lord AUCKLAND.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 23d December 1837.

No. 6.
Captain Burnes
to
Lord Auckland,
23d Dec. 1837.

In the Despatches which I forward by this Opportunity to Mr. Macnaghten your Lordship will find a Report of the extraordinary Circumstances of an Agent having arrived at this Capital, direct from St. Petersburg, with a Letter from the Shah of Persia and Count Simonich, the Russian Ambassador at Tehran.

Before I enter upon the Messages delivered by the Agent to the Ameer it is proper to state the Information which has reached me regarding what has passed at Candahar. In my official Communication of the 9th of September last, your Lordship will remember that I reported the Departue of one Hajee Mobeen on a Mission to Persia, and, as it was believed, in pursuance of the Advice of the Russian Ambassador. That Individual accompanied Mahomed Shah to Khorassan, and was requested by His Majesty to await the Arrival of Captain Vickovitch and proceed with him to Candahar. The Connexion between Russia and Persia in this Part of the Transaction leaves little Doubt of the whole being a concerted Plan between these Powers. The Statement made by the Emissary to the Sirdars of Candahar was to the Effect that Russia had full Influence in Persia, and that they should assist the Shah, and draw on him for Money, and if their Drafts were not paid, that the Russian Government would be responsible for their Discharge; but that they should follow the Wishes of Mahomed Shah if they sought the Emperor's good Offices, and on no Account ally themselves with the English Nation. This Declaration, if true, is certainly most explicit, but though it has been communicated to me by a Man whose other Reports entirely tally with all that is passing in Candahar, and who is the Individual that made known to me Five Months ago the then inexplicable Nature of Hajee Mobeen's Mission, I should not wish your Lordship to give to it that Confidence which I seek to place on the Report of Events that have transpired in Cabool.

On the Evening of the 20th instant the Ameer received the Russian Messenger. On the Agent's producing Mahomed Shah's Ruckum the Ameer felt a Degree of Irritation which he could hardly control, and said, in Affghanee, "that it was an Insult to him, and a Proof of Mahomed Shah's being guided by Advisers, for his Master, the Emperor, wrote him a Letter, and the subservient Shah of Persia arrogated to himself the Right of sending him a Ruckum, or Order, with his Seal in the Face of the Document." The Agent was then dismissed, and invited to the Bala Hissar on the following Day.

The Communications which passed on this second Occasion have been also made known to me, and are of a startling Nature. M. Vickovitch informed Dost Mahomed Khan that the Russian Government had desired him to state its sincere Sympathy with the Difficulties under which he laboured, and that it would afford it great Pleasure to assist him in repelling the Attacks of Runjeet Sing on his Dominions; that it was ready to furnish him with a Sum of Money for the Purpose, and to continue the Supply annually, expecting in return the Ameer's good Offices; that it was in its Power to forward the pecuniary Assistance as far as Bokhara, with which State it had friendly

and commercial Relations; but that the Ameer must arrange for its being forwarded on to Cabool. The Agent stated that this was the principal Object of his Mission, but that there were other Matters, which he would state by and by; that he hoped the Ameer would give him a speedy Answer to despatch to St. Petersburg, and that with reference to himself, he would go, if dismissed, along with it, though he gave the Ameer to understand (and under which Impression he still continues) that it is his Wish to remain, at least for a Time, in Cabool. The Report of this Interview has been communicated to me from Two Sources, and they both agree in the Substance of what passed.

Having thus laid before your Lordship these strong Demonstrations on the Part of Russia to interest herself in the Affairs of this Country, it will not, I feel satisfied, be presumptuous to state my most deliberate Conviction, that much more vigorous Proceedings than the Government might wish or contemplate are necessary to counteract Russian or Persian Intrigue in this Quarter than have been hitherto exhibited.

By one Class of Politicians every thing regarding the Designs of Russia in this Quarter has been treated with Disbelief. By another, the little which has transpired has excited immediate, and in consequence what may be termed groundless Alarm. For the last Six or Seven Years I have had my Attention directed to these Countries, and I profess myself to be one of those who do believe that Russia entertains the Design of extending her Influence to the Eastward, and between her Dominions and India. With her commercial Operations, she has invariably spread the Report that her Designs were ulterior, and the Language of her Agents has lately been, that as the Affairs of Turkey and Persia are adjusted she sought an Extension of her Influence in Toorkistan and Cabool. Such Reports would deserve little Credence if unsupported by Facts, but assisted by them they gather high Importance, and exhibit Views which, but for the greatest Vigilance, might have eluded Notice for Years to come.

There being therefore Facts before us in the Transactions passing at Cabool, it seems impossible, with any Regard to our Safety, to look on longer in Silence. If Russia does not entertain inimical Feelings directly to the British in India, she avows that she wishes for the good Offices of the Chiefs on our Frontier, and promises them her own in return; so that it is useless to conceal from ourselves that Evils must flow from such Connexions. It is indeed casting before us a Challenge. It is a true Maxim that Prevention is better than Cure, and we now have both in our Hands. We might certainly wish to delay awhile longer before acting, but it is now in our Power, by the extended and immediate Exercise of our already established Influence, to counteract every Design injurious to us.

I trust that the free Expression of my Sentiments will not prove displeasing to your Lordship; I am emboldened by the Confidence which has placed me here to speak according to my Conviction.

No. 7.

W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq., to Captain BURNES.

(Extract.)

20th January 1838.

His Lordship attaches little immediate Importance to this Mission of the Russian Agent, although he will bring all the Circumstances connected with it to the Notice of the Home Authorities, as it undoubtedly marks a Desire, which has long been known to exist on the Part of the Russian Government, to push at least the Influence of their Name to our Indian Frontier; and the Proceedings, especially of the Russian Envoy at Tehran, in regard to it, are open to much Observation.

His Lordship is much gratified at the Deference to our Views shown by Dost Mahomed Khan in requesting your Advice as to the Reception of this Agent; and he entirely approves your having sanctioned his being admitted to the Presence of the Ameer, and treated with becoming Civility. If he be
(43.) not

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No. 6.

Captain Burnes
to
Lord Auckland,
23d Dec. 1837.

No. 7.

Secretary with the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
20th Jan. 1838.

VI.

No. 7.
Secretary with the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
20th Jan. 1838.

not already gone from Cabool you will suggest to the Ameer that he be dismissed with Courtesy, with a Letter of Compliments and Thanks to the Emperor of Russia for his proffered Kindness to Cabool Traders. His Mission should be assumed to have been as represented entirely for commercial Objects, and no Notice need be taken of the Messages with which he may profess to have been charged.

This Course will be recommended by you in the event of the Ameer being firmly disposed to abide by our good Offices. If he should, on the other hand, seek to retain the Agent, and to enter into any Description of political Intercourse with him, you will give him distinctly to understand, that your Mission will retire; that our good Offices with the Sikhs will wholly cease; and that, indeed, the Act will be considered a direct Breach of Friendship with the British Government. It has been before at different Times stated to you that the Continuance of our good Offices must be entirely dependent on the Relinquishment by the Ameer of Alliances with any Power to the Westward.

No. 8.

Lieutenant MACKESON, British Agent, Camp Shekhwan, to Captain
C. M. WADE, Political Agent at Loodiana.

No. 8.
Lieut. Mackeson
to
Capt. C. M. Wade.

(Extract.)

The Russian Envoy at Cabool gave out that he intended to visit Lahore, to have some friendly Conversation with Maharajah Runjeet Sing, and to send an Account of his Highness's military Power and Resources to the Emperor of Russia.

No. 9.

Lieutenant MACKESON to Captain WADE.

No. 9.
Lieut. Mackeson
to
Capt. C. M. Wade,
12th Feb. 1838.

(Extract.)

Camp Khanpur, 12th February 1838.

His Highness next adverted to a Letter he had received from Peshawur, mentioning that the Russian Envoy intended to come on to Lahore.

No. 10.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 10.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
29th Jan. 1838.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 29th January 1838.

I do myself the Honour to transmit, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General, the accompanying Letter, dated the 18th instant, from Lieutenant Leech at Candahar, reporting his Proceedings at that City.

With reference to the Letter now forwarded, his Lordship will see a further Confirmation of the Views put forth regarding the commercial Advantages contemplated by Russia in establishing her Influence over Herat and Candahar. That the Correspondence with the Russian Ambassador entirely related to Commerce I have lately discovered the best Grounds for disbelieving, for it seems that the Sirdars of Candahar sent blank Letters by their Agent, with their Seals affixed, to Tehran, and requested Abbas Khan to have them filled up in a Manner that would do them most Service with Russia; and certainly if a Russian Resident being located at Candahar is the Result of these Communications, the widest Latitude has been taken in filling them up.

The Report which Mr. Leech gives of the Communications made by Captain Vickovitch on his passing through Candahar is important, as we now know what

what has passed there as well as in Cabool. It has occurred to me, that whatever be the ulterior Views of Russia in these Countries, the immediate Design of sending this Russian Agent to Affghanistan was to prevent our thwarting the present Persian Expedition on Herat, by leading the Affghans in a Body to render Assistance. It is known to Russia that there is a British Mission in this Country; and if it had acted thus, as they supposed, the Attack on Herat would have been hopeless. The Reports of having strengthened the Detachments East of the Caspian, and of Persia being protected by Russia in the Shah's Absence, have been widely spread by M. Vickovitch, and countenance the Opinion above given.

VI.

No. 10.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
29th Jan. 1838.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Lieutenant Leech to Captain Burnes.

(Extract.)

Candahar, 18th January 1838.

Enclosure.

I have the Honour to report my Arrival at this City, which I entered on the 15th. I was received with every Distinction by the Sirdars, who granted me an immediate Interview, and apportioned a Part of the Premises of Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan for my Residence. This Sirdar said it was well known that Persia had marched against Herat contrary to the Advice of the British Ambassador at Tehran; that it was well known that Persia had not the Power to act by herself, and that the Shah had been put forward by the Russians.

Regarding the Russian Officer now in Cabool with a Letter from the Emperor, Mehir Dil Khan informed me, the following were his Messages from the Emperor: that if they would make Friends with Ameer Dost Mahomed the Russians would assist them with Money to make War on the Sikhs, and regain Mooltan and Derajat; and that they would also aid them in regaining Sinde; that Mahomed Shah owed them 1½ Crores of Rupees, and they would give an Order on him, the Money to be divided between the Ameer and them equally, as also the Countries thus gained; that the Russians could not furnish Men, but would furnish Arms; that they in turn expected the Sirdars to become subservient (farman bardar), and to receive a Russian Resident; that they were to make War when desired, and make Peace. This Officer told them that the English had preceded the Russians in Civilization for some Generations, but that now the latter had arisen from their Sleep, and were seeking for Foreign Possessions and Alliances; and that the English were not a military Nation, but merely the Merchants of Europe. Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan also informed me that several Merchants had seen that Officer in Bokhara, but were ignorant of the Object of his visiting that City.

With regard to the active Part that Russia is taking in the Movements of Persia, the Sirdar assured me he had good Authority to state that Russia had taken Measures to keep the Kingdom of Mahomed Shah tranquil in his Absence by Letters where they were feared, and by Troops where they were not.

No. 11.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 18th February 1838.

No. 11.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
18th Feb. 1838.

I HAVE not addressed you since the 22d ult. regarding the Russian Agent at this City; not that I have been inattentive or indifferent to his Proceedings here, for I find that there is no Doubt of Captain Vickovitch's real Character, and that all the early Surmises regarding him have been thus confirmed.

The Interval has not however passed without the most strenuous Exertions on the Part of M. Vickovitch to draw from the Ameer of Cabool some Answer to the Credentials and Letters which he had brought. He urged, that if a decided Answer were called for by him, it might be held unreasonable; but that he had now been here for a Period of nearly Two Months, and that it was due to those from whom he came to acknowledge the Receipt of the Letters which he had delivered. Dost Mahomed Khan sent for M. Vickovitch on the

(43.)

R

16th

VI.

No. 11.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
18th Feb. 1838.

16th instant, when he repeated his Reasons for wishing Replies, and which the Ameer agreed to give.

The Mode of forwarding them naturally formed the first Subject of Conversation after the Ameer's Consent to reply, and he pointed out the Route of Bokhara as the speediest and best Line of Communication; but to this M. Vickovitch objected, saying that they could be much more rapidly transmitted through M. Goutte in the Persian Camp at Herat, who, besides being his Countryman and personal Friend, was an accredited Agent of the Russian Government. To this the Ameer saw no Objections; but he decided not to address the Shah of Persia.

The Ameer next inquired of M. Vickovitch if he had received any Intelligence from the Russian Gentleman at Herat, which he had not. He then stated his own Views regarding Herat, that it must certainly submit in the End to Persia, for Kamram had no such promised Assistance to oppose the Shah as would avail him. M. Vickovitch replied, that the Persian Army was not a very efficient Body, but that it had an excellent Park of Artillery, and that the Fall of Herat was very probable; and the more so as the Shah was secure in his Possessions behind him, and that the Government of Russia had further added to that Security by throwing Troops East of the Caspian Sea to keep the Toorkomans in check. The Ameer replied, that with such Protection even the Shah of Persia could not have succeeded but for the Supineness of himself and his Brothers at Candahar, for they had it in their Power to succour Herat. The Interview then terminated.

I further learn that M. Vickovitch has been discoursing at length on the Policy of Persia, himself, and of the British Government in that Country. He stated that the English, by disciplining the Troops of Persia, had hoped to injure Russia, but the very opposite Consequence had resulted; that Persia had attacked Russia and been defeated, which had enabled her to possess herself of some of her best and Frontier Provinces, and to establish a complete Influence over the Kingdom; that Russia had no Desire however to make any further Conquests in Persia, or to allow the Shah to extend his Power beyond Herat, for she wished to keep Persia in check, and not that she should become too powerful. He further told the Meerza to inform the Ameer on these Points, and that he and his Brothers might feel assured that this Persian Expedition against Herat would stop there, and not prosecute its March further to the East.

I took the Opportunity to request that he would inform the Ameer that, if M. Vickovitch spoke on the Authority of the Russian Government, it had certainly misunderstood our Proceedings in Persia; that we had never sought to injure Russia through Persia, or aught but to make Persia strong in herself; for which Purpose we had from Time to Time given her Munitions of War and Officers, but we had never countenanced her invading Russia or Affghanistan; and he saw in our present Disapproval of the Siege of Herat a Proof of the Correctness of these Facts.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan, Chief of Cabool, to his Excellency Count Simonich, the Russian Ambassador at the Court of Persia.

Enclosure.

(Extract.)

Your friendly Letter was delivered to me by the respectable Captain Vickovitch, and I was delighted to read this your Second Epistle.

If I were to thank for such Kindness it would be as impossible as to confine the River in a small Vessel or to weigh its Water with Stones.

I fully understand the Messages which you had sent to me through Captain Vickovitch, and confidently expect that your Imperial Government will support and defend my Honour, and by doing so it will be easy to win the Heart of Friends.

I thank you for the Offer you made to arrange my Affairs, and further for your informing me that you do not merely tell me so, but that you will fulfil your Promise. I expect much more from your friendly Government, and

my Hopes have been increased. Though the Distance between us is great, it does not prevent our Approach in Heart. My Mind is put in Peace by your friendly Messages, and I hope it will continue so.

Before the Arrival of the Agent of your Government (Captain Vickovitch), the English Government had deputed Captain Alexander Burnes, who is now with me in Cabool. That Officer is sowing the Seeds of Friendship between Runjeet Sing and myself. Nothing is yet settled, but let us wait the Result.

On the Winter ceasing and the Roads opening I will despatch Captain Vickovitch by any Road that he prefers. At present, on account of the Snow, I have postponed his Departure.

I hope you may continue to enjoy happy Days.

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No. 11.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
18th Feb. 1838.

Enclosure.

No. 12.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 23d February 1838.

I HAD become meanwhile informed of the further Communications of Captain Vickovitch, which went to inform the Ameer that the Emperor of Russia was superior in his Dominions, and could act of himself with Promptitude and without being delayed by consulting others, while the British Government transacted its Business by a Council (Punchayet), which gave rise to Procrastination, and would show to him the Advantages of allying himself to Russia, where no such Inconvenience existed; and further, that the Emperor's Good-will towards him would never then let Persia encroach in this Quarter.

No. 12.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
23d Feb. 1838.

No. 13.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 4th March 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, that I have more Grounds for believing that Captain Vickovitch, the Russian Agent of Cabool, is charged with Letters from his Government to Maharajah Runjeet Sing. I observe that Colonel Stoddart mentions this as a Surmise to Mr. McNeill; and a few Days ago Mr. A. Ward wrote to me from Peshawur to know if the "On dit" of M. Vickovitch's going to the Punjaub were true.

I have made every Inquiry on this Subject, and in the course of Yesterday Mr. Masson was informed that the Russian Agent had Letters for the Maharajah, and that the Purport of them was to the Effect that if his Highness did not withdraw from Peshawur the Russian Government would compel him.

No. 13.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
4th March 1838.

No. 14.

Captain WADE to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

21st March 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to transmit an open Letter to your Address from Captain Burnes, dated the 4th instant, repeating, from Cabool, the Report which had formerly reached Peshawur, that the Mission of Captain Vickovitch would extend to Lahore.

No. 14.
Captain Wade
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
21st March 1838.

No. 15.

VI.

Captain BURNES W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 15.
 Captain Burnes
 to the
 Secretary with the
 Governor General,
 17th March 1838.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 17th March 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to transmit, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General, Four Letters, with the Treaty (Nos. 1 to 5) to which they relate, that have just reached me from Lieutenant Leech at Candahar.

These Documents contain the Avowal of M. Goutte, the Russian Agent with the Shah of Persia, at Herat, that the Russian Ambassador becomes the Guarantee in the Arrangements made between Persia and Candahar. The Treaty to which Russia thus makes herself a Party, being annexed, speaks for itself.

Whatever be the Interpretation put upon the Treaty between Persia and the British Government, and which prevents our succouring Herat, it has appeared to me that no Clause in that Document can authorize Persia to set on one Affghan Chief against another, much less permit Persia to use Russian Agency to effect it.

The Individual who went to the Shah's Camp along with Kumber Alee Khan reports to the Sirdars of Candahar, as I learn from Mr. Leech, that the Persian Vizier has threatened him that if his Masters do not become subservient to the Shah they will soon be treated as Herat has been.

Supposing the Government of Russia disavows the Act of their accredited Agent M. Goutte, the Evil is done by the Transmission of his Letter, which passes for Truth. At present I only transmit the Documents, as sufficient Time has not elapsed to judge of their Effects here or at Candahar. As far as I yet gather that has been most prejudicial to us.

First Enclosure in No. 15.

Mahomed Shah to Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan.

Enclosure No. 1.

A.C.

Alladad Khan has arrived in my Camp and made known your Requests, and the Favour of the King towards you has increased. Whoever shall in Confidence come to me shall meet with nothing but Kindness, and shall gain his Ends, and if you are still firm and true to your Word, you may consider the Favour of the King firm on you too. Always write the State of your Wishes and Hopes to me, and consider that you will gain all your Ends.

Second Enclosure in No. 15.

M. Goutte to Kohen Dil Khan.

Enclosure No. 2.

A.C.

Alladad Khan and Meer Mahomed Khan have delivered your Letter to me, and I was much delighted at its Contents. You wrote to tell me you had determined on becoming subservient to Mahomed Shah, and had sought his Protection. You may depend upon my fulfilling the Engagements I have entered into with you, and consider it to be advantageous to yourself to perform any Service for my Government. I cannot express in Writing my Friendship for you and Care for your Welfare. Regarding your making Russia the Guarantee in this Connexion, your Wishes will be met by the Russian Ambassador, to whom I have forwarded your Letter, and with it I have written my own Opinions on the Subject. I have cultivated your Friendship at the Suggestion of Hajee Aghassee. It is better to despatch Omar Khan without Apprehension, and I will write to the Persian Government to remove all Apprehensions at your sending your Son. He will be treated with great Distinction by the Shah and his Nobles. When you have despatched your Son, the Treaty drawn up by Kumber Alee will be entered into by the Means of Hajee Aghassee, and I, as your Friend, tell you to be under no Apprehension at sending your Son. After he arrives, every thing you wish will

will be done through Hajee Aghassee. Send your Son quickly, and trust him to God. When I receive an Answer from the Russian Minister (Simonich) I will forward it.

Third Enclosure in No. 15.

Letter from Major General Borowski.

A.C.

Abdul Wahal Beg and Alladad Khan have arrived with Kumber Alee Khan, and have extolled to me your Acts and Nature. Consider the Subjects on which Captain Vickovitch conversed with you connected with your Welfare; besides these I have other Subjects to speak on. You have done well in seeking the Protection of Persia; this Alladad informed me you had done, and I am much pleased with your Messages. Alladad Khan has requested me to write to you; he has himself witnessed my Influence here, and has been himself favourably received by the Shah, and asked to know in what Favour the Sirdars of Candahar were with him (the Shah). Nothing but Good will result from this your Connexion with the Shah; so much Good, indeed, that I cannot put it to Paper. Be convinced that your serving the Shah will turn out every Way to your Advantage. The Shah treats every one according to his Deserts, and your Deserts are above all others. By all means send Mahomed Omar Khan speedily; he will be treated with nothing but Kindness, and on this Subject the Assistant to the Russian Minister, M. Goutte, has written, as also has Hajee Aghassee, who has written to confirm what Kumber Alee had done (at Candahar). By the Fortune of the Shah, Meimuna, the Hazarehs, and Char Adeemak (Annak) have been subdued as completely as could have been wished; and as the Ausif of Meshid has written, no Doubt the Son of Mizrab Khan Walee, and the Brother of Sher Mahomed Khan, and Gurdzanum Khan and others, will come over to the Shah (as Hostages). Persia is not what it was; I wish your Connexion with Persia were speedily accomplished. Mahomed Shah has hitherto avoided taking Herat out of Kindness to its Mahomedans; but by the Blessing of God and the Fortune of the King Herat will be taken; every thing will be for the best. It will be all the better the speedier you despatch Sirdar Mahomed Omar Khan.

Fourth Inclosure in No. 15.

The Vizier Hajee Aghassee to the Sirdars of Candahar.

A. C.

Alladad Khan and Kumber Alee Khan have arrived and presented your Petition, and I have learnt every thing you write to the Shah, and I cannot express how much the Favour of the King is upon you, and I am much pleased with your friendly Messages. You ought to send Omar Khan, and by this the Favour of the King will be greater even than you expect, and I also think you should send Mahomed Omar Khan quickly, that your Ends may be gained. On his Arrival every thing Kumber Alee wrote will be performed; and, thank God, to this Day I have never spoken false. If you keep your Word and still seek the Protection of the King, and only perform his Engagements after this, and you will see how the King will favour you, and please God it be better if nothing should interrupt our Friendship. If you do not make Friends after all I shall be disgraced for having proposed this Friendship to the King; but I ought not to suppose such a Thing. It is well known we are Friends. Continue to write to me.

Fifth Inclosure in No. 15.

Draft of Treaty made by Kumber Alee Khan, the Persian Elchee, with the Chiefs of Candahar.

The Treaty which I, Kumber Alee, (literally, Creature of God,) have made with the respectable Sirdars Kohen Dil, Rehem Dil, and Mehir Dil Khan, on the Part of His Majesty Mahomed Shah, is as follows:—

(43.)

S

In

VI.

No. 15.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
17th March 1838.

Enclosure No. 3.

Enclosure No. 4.

Enclosure No. 5.

VI.

No. 15.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
17th March 1838.

Enclosure No. 5.

In case the Sirdars should send one of their Sons to His Majesty, I promise to the Sirdars the following Return :—

1. That the Country of Herat, whether it be taken by the Power of the Servants of the Persian Government or that of the Sirdars, must be left to the latter. The Shah should not expect any thing from them in return but Service, and likewise make no Interference of any Kind with their Country or Tribe in Affghanistan.

2. His Majesty is not to form a Connexion with the Affghans of any Description, great or small, and also not to employ them; in case of any Business with the Affghans His Majesty is to have recourse to the Sirdars.

3. His Majesty is never to make Friendship with Shahzadah Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan.

4. On the Arrival of the Son of Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan His Majesty is to order the Army at Meshid to march towards Herat; if Kamran and Yar Mahomed Khan resolve to take Candahar the Shah should prevent them by coming to Candahar; and if they do not agree to this, then the Shah should come to Herat.

5. The Shah is also to give the Sirdars the Expense of 12,000 Cavalry and Infantry, 12 Guns, and the extra Expenditure of the Troops in the Capture of Herat; if the Battle lasts long the Shah must furnish the Expenses of the Army.

6. In case any Harm befalls the Country of the Sirdars the Shah agrees to give them, in his own Country, Land equal to the Value of their Loss.

7. The Treaty which I have now made with the Sirdars is to be approved of by His Majesty, and bear the Signature of Hajee Meerza Aghassee, Meerza Massood (the Minister for Foreign Affairs), and also of the Ambassadors of Russia and England, to ensure Confidence to the Sirdars.

8. When all these Promises are fulfilled, the Sirdars are to leave Candahar for Herat, at the Head of 12,000 Cavalry and Infantry and 12 Guns. When they reach Furrah they should send Sirdar Mehirdil Khan with 1,000 Horsemen to the Shah, who may give him further Troops and Money, according to his Wants. When Mehirdil Khan comes to Herat and is dismissed by the Shah the other Sirdars are to join him at the same Time; the Persian Army must be guided by the Sirdars and obey them. If it please God, by the Fortune of the Shah, the Wisdom of the Sirdars, and the Assistance of the Candahar and Persian Army, the City of Herat will soon be reduced to Homage.

9. When the above Conditions are fulfilled the Shah agrees not to keep the Son of Kohen Dil Khan with himself; it must be left to him (the Son) to stay or depart; if the latter, the Shah must dismiss him and his Companions with Honour, and conduct him safe to the Candahar Boundary.

(Sealed) KUMBER ALEE KHAN.

No. 16.

No. 16.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
21st March 1838.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Cabool, 21st March 1838.

It is satisfactory to report that Mr. Leech informs me the Chiefs of Candahar have sent as an Answer to Herat, to their late Elchee Kumber Alee Khan, that the Period which he had requested them to wait had elapsed Two Months ago, and that their Reply to all the Requests made by the Russian and Persian Governments, therefore, was that they must consult with their Brothers in Cabool.

Enclosure in No. 16.

Enclosure.

Sirdars of Candahar, Kohen Dil Khan, Rehem Dil Khan, and Mehirdil Khan, to Captain Burnes.—(Received at Cabool, 21st March 1838.)

Your friendly Letter reached us, and we fully understand its Contents.

As the respectable Ameer has desired one of us to wait upon him, we have resolved that Mehirdil Khan should shortly proceed to Cabool. If it pleases God, he will have also the Pleasure of seeing you there.

No. 17.

W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq., to Captain BURNES.

(Extract.)

27th April 1838.

IN regard to the recent open Interference of the Russian Functionary in the Camp of the Shah of Persia in the Intrigues of that Power with the Chiefs of Candahar, I am directed to refer you to the Observations in the accompanying Copy of the Despatch of this Date to the Hon. the Secret Committee. It is satisfactory to his Lordship that those Intrigues have not at least been immediately successful.

VI.

No. 17.

Secretary with the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
27th April 1838.

No. 18.

The GOVERNOR GENERAL to the SECRET COMMITTEE of the Court of Directors
of the East India Company.

(Extract.)

27th April 1838.

REFERRING especially to the Circumstances represented to your Honourable Committee in my Despatch of the 8th of February last, I have again to submit to your Notice a Demonstration still more undisguised, on the Part of the Russian Agents, of their Desire to connect themselves with the Persian Schemes of Encroachment in Affghanistan, and by that Means to extend their own Influence and Intrigues to the very Frontiers of our Indian Empire.

In my former Despatch I stated that I could not look to any Stability of Persian Domination in the Affghan Countries. But there is a Course open to the Agents of Russia in the Attempts made by them to extend the Power and Influence of their Country which they seem ready to pursue, and to prefer to the Support of the direct Dominion of Persia over Affghanistan. It may be collected from their Language and Proceedings that they would on one Side appear to be aiding Persia in the Establishment of a general Supremacy over the Affghan Chiefships, and on the other as protecting those Chiefships from any serious Aggression and Injury. Professions and Promises to this Effect may at least assist the immediate Views of Persia, but they may also have the ultimate Effect, in the actual distracted Condition of Affghanistan, of giving to Russia an Arbitration over the Fortunes of all who exercise Authority in that Region.

It will be observed that an accredited and high Officer of the Russian Mission in Persia has publicly written to the Chiefs of Candahar, urging them to Submission to Persia, and promising his best Efforts to obtain the Guarantee of his Court to the Transfer to those Chiefs of the City and Territory of Herat on their being conquered by the Persian Forces.

I need not say that we would seem to have the clearest Right and Interest to remonstrate against such Proceedings, for Russia can have no legitimate Ground for extending her political Connexions to Affghanistan, while we are necessarily interested in the Peace and Independence of that Country by Proximity and Position.

I do not now dwell upon minor Circumstances: the Acceptance by Russia of Persian Recommendations for her Agent, Captain Vickovitch, to the Chiefs of Candahar and Cabool, or the Language reported by Captain Burnes to have been held by that Officer at the latter Place. The more open and formal Proceeding on the Part of the Russian Functionary in the Shah's Camp, in addressing such a Communication to the Chiefs of Candahar, appears to be that to which Attention should most distinctly be pointed.

A Copy of this Despatch will be forwarded to Mr. M'Neill at Tehran, that he may be apprized of my Sentiments, and be prepared to take such Notice of the Proceeding alluded to as may seem to him proper and consistent with his Instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

No. 18

Governor General
to the
Secret Committee,
27th April 1838.

No. 19.

VI.

Dr. LORD to Captain BURNES.

No. 19.
Dr. Lord to
Captain Burnes,
11th April 1838.

(Extract.)

11th April 1838.

I HAVE Reason to believe that a Russian Emissary is at present in Balkh, having returned after an unsuccessful Attempt to pass by way of Kokan and Yarkund to Cashmere. He is said to employ himself much in writing and making Maps.

No. 20.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 20.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
30th April 1838.

(Extract.)

30th April 1838.

IT will be some Satisfaction to the Governor General to learn that, however unfortunate has been the Termination of our present Intercourse at Cabool, the Government will be thereby possessed of most potent Arguments for Remonstrance with Persia at the Line of Conduct which she has pursued towards a friendly Ally like Britain in the Counteraction of her Plans to see Peace established in Central Asia. With reference to Russia, her Proceedings are open to so much Remark, after Count Nesselrode's Disavowals, that I presume she must either disavow Captain Vickovitch and M. Goutte as her Emissaries, or be made responsible for their Proceedings. I have only again to repeat my most deliberate Conviction, founded on much Reflection regarding the passing Events in Central Asia, that Consequences of the most serious Nature must in the End flow from them, unless the British Government applies a prompt, active, and decided Counteraction. I do not offer these as Opinions founded on the periodical Publications of all Europe, (though the Coincidence of Sentiment in all Parties does not want its Weight,) but as formed on the Scene of their Intrigues, and it is my Duty, as a public Servant, earnestly to state them to my Superiors.

As I am despatching this Communication from Jelalabad, Half-way to Peshawur, I have received good Information that the Ameer has been constantly with Captain Vickovitch since I left, and that Officer has earnestly solicited Permission to proceed to Herat by the direct Road of Hazarehjat, and offered the solemn Pledges to do all which the Ameer wishes under a Month. He has also bound himself to address Maharajah Runjeet Sing about retiring from Peshawur, and when Dost Mahomed Khan asked if he had Authority to do so, he replied that he had a Letter to that Potentate, which would soon set Matters right.

No. 21.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 21.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
9th May 1838.

Sir,

Peshawur, 9th May 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to transmit, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General, the Translation of a Letter which I have just received from Cabool, explaining further the Plans of the Chiefs of Cabool and Candahar consequent on their new Alliance with Persia and Russia.

Enclosure in No. 21.

Letter from Cabool to Captain Burnes.—(Received at Peshawur
8th May 1838.)

Enclosure.

A. C.

The Day after you left Cabool the Ameer had a private Meeting with Sirdar Mehirdil Khan, Reshid Akhoondzada, and Meerza Samee Khan. They have settled that Mahomed Azeem Khan (the Ameer's Son) and Meerza Samee Khan

Khan should leave Cabool, and, having joined Mahomed Omar Khan and Moolla Reshid at Candahar, proceed to Herat, and wait upon Mahomed Shah on the Part of the Cabool and Candahar Chiefs.

Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan has addressed a Letter to Mahomed Shah, which, after being sealed by his Brothers at Candahar, will be sent by Express. The Contents of the Letter are as follows:—

“ On the Arrival of Kumber Alee Khan, your Majesty's Agent at Candahar, it was resolved that Mahomed Omar Khan should wait upon the Shah on the Part of the Candahar Chiefs. Meanwhile, Captain Burnes reached Cabool, as an Agent of the British Government, on which our elder Brother Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan sent a Letter preventing us sending Mahomed Omar Khan to His Majesty, on the following Grounds: The British Government and Runjeet Sing are very near the Affghans, and Mahomed Shah is at a Distance of Three Months Journey, and that the Ameer feared these Two Powers may be offended and endeavour to ruin him, which His Majesty could not prevent. Regarding the Superiority of our Brother (the Ameer), and seeing the Good of the Governments, we recalled Mahomed Omar Khan from Gherisk, on account of the Confusion. When we received authentic Information of His Majesty's Arrival at Herat, I left Candahar and came to Cabool, and brought about the Dismissal of Captain Burnes, and induced the Ameer to send his Minister Meerza Samee Khan to His Majesty, and from Candahar Mahomed Omar Khan and Moolla Reshid will wait upon His Majesty.”

It is expected that the above-mentioned Individuals will leave this on the 6th of May.

The Contents of the Ameer's Letter to Mahomed Shah are as follows:—

“ When Kumber Alee Khan reached Candahar Captain Burnes also came to Cabool on the Part of the English Government. He prevented my entering into an Alliance with your Majesty. As the Shah was at a Distance I kept Captain Burnes in evasive Discourse, and on having the sure Information of your Majesty's Arrival at Herat I dismissed him instantly. I have now appointed my Son Mahomed Azeem Khan and my Minister Meerza Samee Khan to wait upon your Majesty. I will obey the Orders (Aman) of His Majesty in future.”

The Chupper has been despatched with the above Letter to Herat.

Yesterday Meerza Samee told the Ameer that he must get another Person to go to Mahomed Shah in lieu of him, as he does not want to go himself. On asking the Reason of the Meerza's Refusal he stated to the Ameer that he was a Kuzzilbash, and in case Mahomed Shah does not agree to the Proposals of the Ameer he would imprison his Son and himself (Meerza), and advance on Candahar, which will excite the Suspicion of the Affghans, and they will ruin him; and further, that it would be better if the Ameer sent along with him either his Agent (Naib-i-Ameer), Ameer Akhoondzada, or Abdoolla Khan to Mahomed Shah.

This Proposal of the Meerza to the Ameer originates in his Sagacity, for he has settled every thing with Captain Vickovitch, who has promised that on reaching the Camp of Mahomed Shah he will send to the Ameer the Sum of Forty Lacs of Rupees. The above Officer is boasting very much what he will do to protect and exalt the Ameer, but it is needless to mention these Affairs minutely.

No. 22.

H. TORRENS, Esquire, Deputy Secretary with the Governor General, to
Captain BURNES.

(Extract.)

Simla, 22d May 1838.

THE Details given by you as to the Intrigues of the Russian Agent at Cabool will be communicated to the Home Government, as well as to Her Majesty's Agent at Tehran.

VI.

No. 21.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
9th May 1838.

Enclosure.

No. 22.

Deputy Secretary
with the
Governor General
to
Captain Burnes,
22d May 1838.

No. 23.

VI.

Captain BURNES to the Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 23.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary to the
Government of
India,
17th May 1838.

(Extract.)

Peshawur, 17th May 1838.

It will again be seen that Affairs at Cabool undergo further Change, and that Russia, despairing of Cabool, has now stepped forward to detach Candahar of itself; and the Promises held out by her have led to a Difference between the Ameer and Mehri Dil Khan.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Letter to the Address of Captain Burnes.—(Received at Peshawur
16th May 1838.)

Enclosure.

(Extract.)

After your Departure from this Place the Ameer sends for Captain Vickovitch daily to his Court, and makes Arrangements with him, which are not as yet written.

On Tuesday Evening a Man by the Name of Bahar, in the Service of Kohen Dil Khan, came to Cabool with Letters from the Russian Agent with Mahomed Shah to Captain Vickovitch. Alladad, who had accompanied Kumber Alee Khan, has also returned to Candahar with other Letters from Mahomed Shah and the Russian Agent to the Address of the Candahar Chiefs.

The Russian Ambassador at Tehran has written to Mahomed Shah to take Herat by all means if he can, as he will never be able to conquer Toorkistan without reducing Herat to Subjection. His Excellency has instructed the Shah to satisfy the Chiefs of Candahar and the Ameer of Cabool at any rate, and give whatever they want, since they have written to him (the Ambassador) through Captain Vickovitch, and accepted the Friendship of Russia.

No. 24.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 24.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
25th May 1838.

Sir,

Peshawur, 25th May 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, the following authentic Intelligence from Cabool:—The Ameer has dismissed Captain Vickovitch with all Honour and Respect, and that Officer has proceeded to Candahar along with Sirdar Mehri Dil Khan, accompanied on the Part of Dost Mahomed Khan by Huboo Khan, a Barukzye enjoying the Ameer's Confidence. After the Ameer had made every Preparation for sending his Son and Meerza Samee Khan to wait on Mahomed Shah at his Camp before Herat, the Plan was suspended pro tempore, by the Arrangement above given. The Candahar Family will wait on the Shah without Delay, and be introduced through Captain Vickovitch, and it is understood at Cabool that the Ameer will send his own subsequent Messengers direct to Herat by the Hazareh Road.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

No. 25.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 25.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
27th May 1838.

(Extract.)

Peshawur, 27th May 1838.

WITH reference to the last Paragraph of my Letter of the 21st ultimo, reporting the Presence of a Russian Traveller at Balkh, I do myself the Honour to annex an Extract from Mr. Lord's Journal regarding him, which may prove interesting.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Extract from Mr. Lord's Journal regarding a Russian Jew Traveller at Balkh.

Oorn, April 1838.

_____ have just returned from Balkh. They report that they met there a Man who represented himself as a Jew, but allowed he was from Russia. He has for Two Years been on his Travels, has visited Bokhara, Samarcand, Kokan, but was induced to give up the Project he had formed of penetrating by way of Yarkand, &c. to Cashmere by learning that it would be impossible to get beyond the Chinese Posts without leaving his Papers behind. He is said to write much and to draw Maps, but this he himself denied; he spoke Persian, but not fluently. He first inquired whether our Men could speak English, then Russian, then Toorkee, then Persian, and last of all spoke a few Words of Hindoostanee, which he said was all he knew of that Language; He was not staying with the Jews, but living by himself in a hired House in the Bazar. He was well dressed; he declined eating, saying this was his Fast, that it would be over in Ten or Twelve Days, and that then he would come to us, as he wished to accompany us to Cabool, and get by that Road to Cashmere. This Account would either suit his being a Jew or a Christian, as Easter (Passover) is on the 15th of this Month. He gave his Name first as Mûrat, but on observing that that is not a Jewish Name, he said his Name was Murdehas (Mordecai). He is described as having a fair Complexion, a scanty Beard of light Brown, his Head not shaved in any Part, but he wore a Turban; he had arrived from Bokhara only Five Days. He denied the Report that any Russian Troops had come to join the Kuzzilbash.

VI.

No. 25.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
27th May 1838.

Enclosure.

No. 26.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Lahore, 8th July 1838.

I ENCLOSE Copy of a Letter that was sent by Captain Vickovitch to M. Goutte.

No. 26.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
8th July 1838.

Enclosure in No. 26.

Intelligence received by Captain Burnes from Candahar on the 7th of July 1838 at Lahore.

When the Sirdars of Candahar were disappointed, and sure that the British Government would do nothing for them, they sent the Treaty that had been drawn between them and Kumber Alee Khan to the Russian Ambassador. The Contents of the Treaty are well known to you by my late Communication.

After perusing the Treaty the Russian Envoy took it to Mahomed Shah, who agreed to every Article of it. The Envoy made himself Guarantee for the Fulfilment of its Articles, and then sent it back to the Sirdars, along with his own Letter, the Contents of which are as follow:—

“ Mahomed Shah has promised to give you the Possession of Herat, and I sincerely tell you that you will also get Ghorian on my Account from the Shah. It is therefore advisable that you send your Son Mahomed Omar Khan to Herat, where you must also afterwards come.

“ When Mahomed Omar Khan arrives here I will ask the Shah to quit Herat, and send your Son along with His Majesty to Tehran. I (the Russian Envoy) will remain here with 12,000 Troops; and when you join we will take Herat, which will be afterwards delivered to you.”

On the Arrival of this Letter the Sirdars had no Bounds to their Joy, and sent it to Cabool. The Report was that it did not please the Ameer at all.

Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan has returned to Candahar. The Russian Agent (Vickovitch) who accompanied him from Cabool to this Place was received

Enclosure.

VI.

No. 26.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
8th July 1838.

Enclosure.

here with Honour, since the Russian Envoy at Herat had written strongly to the Sirdars that they must treat Omar Khan or Vickovitch with all Sorts of Consideration, and believe his Tongue, Oath, and Words as if they were from him (Russian Envoy).

The Sirdars have sent Mahomed Omar with 250 Horsemen to Herat to wait for Mahomed Shah, and have sent an Elephant for His Majesty, and some Shawls for the Russian Envoy.

The Sirdars have sent 114 Letters, &c., ordering the Heads of Seistan, Furrah, Subzawar, and other Affghans to join their Son Mahomed Sadig Khan at Furrah. They have also informed them that the Russian Envoy has made them the "Miri Affghan," and has promised to give them Possession of Herat, when, if any of them will not obey our (Sirdars) Orders, he will be banished from the Country for ever.

No. 27.

No. 27.
Letter to the
Russian Ambassa-
dor Extraordinary,
referred to in the
Letter from
Captain Burnes
of the
8th July 1838.

LETTER to the Russian Ambassador Extraordinary (or fully empowered) at the Court of Persia, referred to in the Letter from Captain Burnes of the 8th July 1838.

His Lordship Major General and Cavalier Count Simonitch (or Simonich).

Report from Lieutenant Vickovitch of the First Ormhing Cossack Regiment.

Having departed from Candahar 2d (or may be the 27th) November of the past Year, 1837, I arrived at Cabool on the 8th of December. The Reception of Dost Mahomed Khan, and his Condescension towards me, was sufficiently marked,—polite as kind.

I was lodged in the House of the First Minister, Meerza Adoo Selm (probably Abdool or Abdalla) Khan, and after Three Days (waiting), I demanded an Audience, when I delivered the Imperial Credentials (literally the most high Letter) and the Letter of your Lordship; and to that I added verbally, that the Object of my coming was to evince to him and the Rulers of Candahar the very gracious Wishes (or Inclinations) of the Emperor, and to declare that His Majesty the Emperor was pleased to return a gracious Reply to the Letter of Dost Mahomed Khan, and vouchsafed to him Protection and friendly Alliance; that the Rulers of Affghanistan, having made up or reconciled their Differences among themselves (this Passage is rather guessed at, being unintelligible), should acknowledge, or place themselves under the Dominion of Persia, with whom Russia is connected by truly friendly Relations.

The Ameer (Prince), in showing his Satisfaction at the Imperial Letter (Credentials), gave me to understand that a friendly Treaty (on the Part) of the Affghans with the Persians could not be (subsist), because an English Envoy, Captain Burnes, now here, has concluded (or was concluding) a mutual Treaty; that Dost Mahomed Khan, having collected as large an Affghan Army as possible, (should go or was to go) to the Assistance of Kamran against the Persians besieging Herat; and by that Treaty the English bound themselves to give (to supply) the Affghans 20,000 Muskets. (I cannot exactly make out the Word *Thousand*, but suppose it.) (Some Words here about the Russian Alliance not legible.)—and to make over to the Possession of the Affghan Peshawur and the other Conquests of Runjeet on the Right Bank of the Indus; and that the Treaty was despatched to Calcutta for the Information of the Governor General of India, Lord Auckland. Thus terminated my first Interview with the Ameer Dost Mahomed; but his Vizier Meerza Abdool (Hosseini) Khan almost daily comes to me, and makes various Inquiries regarding the Power of Russia and the other European Governments. In the meantime Captain Burnes departed (went) for Candahar, accompanied by the Lieutenant of Artillery, Leech, in order to (induce) the Candahar Rulers (to enter into) a Treaty, and (to withdraw themselves) from friendly Relations with the Shah. The English have established between Cabool and Candahar a Kind of (Letter Post); and they have written (or it has been written) that the Persians are defeated, have retreated to Meshid, and have suffered extremely from Hunger (Want of Provisions). All this has occasioned Dost Mahomed Khan to conduct himself very coldly towards me; and then, as he daily (converses) with Burnes, from my Arrival here to the 20th of February, I have hardly (or Two

or) Three Times been in his Presence. Having discovered (or learnt) from Meerza Abdool Khan that he (I do not make out whether Abdool Khan is here meant or Dost Mahomed) had a secret Distrust of (or Dislike to) English Influence (or Connexion), I endeavoured as much as possible to strengthen it, and succeeded in shaking his previous (or at a former Time) Confidence in and Friendship towards them.

In the meantime, on the 21st February, was received from Lord Auckland a Reply distinctly (decidedly) to cancel (refuse) all that Burnes had negotiated (or agreed upon), but in his Letter (not clearly made out) he does not advise (dissuades) the Rulers of Affghanistan to enter upon any Alliance with Persia or other Powers; that the Affghans were in a great Measure indebted for their Independence to the Support of the English, who restrained Runjeet Sing from Conquest. The true Cause (Reason for) such Proceeding of Lord Auckland, as Burnes declares, is the following:—Runjeet having received from the Company a Proposal to give up to the Affghans Peshawur, and other Conquests, that he would willingly comply with the Wishes of the Company upon receiving Intimation to that Effect,—(some Reference here to the Territories between the Indus and Cashmere, and securing the Succession to his Heirs, but I cannot make connected Sense of it.) On receiving such Proposition from Runjeet Lord Auckland replied, that in consequence of (or on the Occasion) the Approach of the Persian Shah to Herat, he decidedly (objects), and advises Runjeet to retain Peshawur, and oppose himself to the Movements of the Shah, who, as reported, is resolved to extend his March (or Conquests) to the Borders of India. Dost Mahomed Khan, abandoning his Hopes of Assistance (not clearly made out) on the Part of the English, has sent to Candahar (the Purport) of the Letter received from Lord Auckland, and requested for Consultation and Co-operation one of the Sirdars of that Place. Burnes, on his Part, has written to Lieutenant Leech, (being) at Candahar, that he should by all means endeavour to dissuade the Sirdars from going to Cabool and with Dost Mahomed Khan. But the ill-conducted Intrigues of Leech have been disclosed, and roused the Sirdar Kohen Khan, and led the Affghans to adopt the contrary Course—to join—Dost Mahomed Khan, and break off all Connexion with them (the English), and place themselves under the Sway of Persia, with the Guarantee of Russia; that the Shah should apply (100 m) Muskets for the Equipment of the Cabool and Candahar Army, and that after the taking of Herat the Shah himself with his Troops should advance into Affghanistan for the Recovery of the Provinces conquered by Runjeet. In demonstration of the Sincerity of this Proposal the Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan and the Sirdar Kohen Khan,—as one of their Proceedings. — Meerza Abdool Khan, who not only possesses the entire Confidence of Dost Mahomed Khan, but influences all Affairs in Affghanistan particularly,—and the Sirdar Mehir Khan. — They request me to set out (in the course of the Month) to forward (or obtain) from your Lordship the Guarantee,—that the Persians shall fulfil the Conditions upon which the Affghans agree to submit themselves to the Sway of Persia; and for that Purpose I intend leaving Cabool on the 26th or 27th of April. Captain Burnes has frequently demanded of Dost Mahomed Khan that I should be immediately dismissed, and that the Rulers of Affghanistan should engage not to enter into any Negotiations (or Relations) with Persia and Russia; but seeing that now Affairs have taken entirely another Turn he does not wait for the Arrival of his Companions, who last Autumn went into Toorkistan, and having instructed Lieutenant Leech to proceed from Candahar to Shikarpore and Hyderabad, (where he probably) suspects that the Ruler of Sind may enter into the Confederation forming between Persia and Affghanistan, he left Cabool on the 19th (or may be 17th) instant (April), and went through Peshawur to Lahore. I have the Honour to present for the favourable Consideration of your Lordship a brief Description of Affghanistan. I venture to infer (conclude) that with some Pains and Discretion the Russian Government (Administration) — here, — as well as in commercial as political Relations. The geographical Position of Affghanistan makes it the only—through which a Conqueror can—from Candahar to the very Shores of the Ocean;—barren Deserts which can never be passable by any Kind of military Force (or Detachments); on the North and North-west the Road (Way) from Toorkistan is bounded (closed) by the strong Pass of Hindoo Koosh, which

VI.

No. 27.

Letter to the
Russian Ambassa-
dor Extraordinary.
referred to in the
Letter from
Captain Burnes
of the
8th July 1838.

VI.

No. 27.

Letter to the
Russian Ambassa-
dor Extraordinary,
referred to in the
Letter from
Captain Burnes
of the
8th July 1838.

has only Two Roads hardly passable for the Space of Four (I cannot make out whether the next Word is Months or some Term implying Distance; I think the former,) (several Words here not legible)—for Military Stores or Supplies of an Army. The People of Affghanistan are warlike, and if the mutual Animosities existing between the several Authorities (ruling Powers) were reconciled they could oppose the united Forces of all India. Being a Place where it is difficult (as it is in all such Places) to display (or enforce) the maritime Power of Russia, it nevertheless participates (lends its Aid) in the Reliance and Influence which your Lordship has ably succeeded in diffusing throughout Persia. In these Countries, your—— which extends as far as the Exploits of the Persian Armies, accompanies the Name of your Lordship, and no one of the Inhabitants of Cabool and Candahar doubts that the Shah, when leaving Tehran, gave over to your Lordship the Reins of Government;—for my Part I do not doubt that by the Aid of this something permanent may be done (established here). The English have appreciated the full Importance of this Country in a political point of view (bearing), and they have spared neither Trouble nor Expense to gain a Footing (install themselves) in Affghanistan, and, without Doubt, is known to your Lordship their Successes in respect to the Defence of Herat. This Mission of Captain Burnes, as it appears (to have been), costs him (or them), as far as I can ascertain, 300 Rupees. He (or they) during Eight Years Residence here (or possibly it may be “when here Eight Years ago,”) made Purchases to the Extent of 150 Rupees. From the Year 1832 there has been here an established English Agent receiving a Salary of One thousand Rupees. He left Cabool together with Burnes. On my Arrival at Tehran I shall have the Honour more particularly to lay before your Lordship the Affairs of Affghanistan. At present I venture to most humbly beg that the desired (by the Affghans) Guarantee should be acknowledged. Your verbal Condescension in the Camp of the Shah.

(Signed) VICKOVITCH, Lieutenant.

No. 28.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 28.

Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
18th August 1838.

Sir,

Simla, 18th August 1838.

I do myself the Honour to forward, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General, Intelligence from the West, which appears to be of Importance, since it conveys Details of a Repulse which the Persians have met at Herat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. BURNES.

Enclosure in No. 28.

————— to Captain Burnes.

Enclosure.

(Extract.)

19th July 1838.

You must also know that the Days in which you saw Dost Mahomed Khan are departed. He is no longer popular. His joining the Russians has utterly ruined him in the Eyes of all Mahomedans.

News has reached Cabool that Lord Auckland has entered into a Treaty with Runjeet Sing to restore Shooja-ool-Molk, and that as soon as the Rains are over, one Army is to march to Shikarpore and Candahar with the Shah, and another to Peshawur with the Shah's Son. This has quickened Dost Mahomed Khan's Plans; he has set about repairing the Bala Hissar of Cabool and the Fort of Ghiznee; he has also increased his Taxes in the Kohistan; and, as you know, this only increases his Difficulties. He now sends Messenger after Messenger to the Russian Ambassador and the Shah, urging them to settle Affairs at Herat, and come on to Cabool, when the Country will be theirs.

No. 29.

J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary with the Governor General of India.

(Extract.)

Bombay Castle, 6th August 1838.

I AM directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for Submission to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, a Copy of a Letter from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 19th ultimo, regarding Two Russian Agents, named Dieskau and Frees, said to have been deputed to India with a view to obtain certain Information as to the Country and its Inhabitants.

VI.

No. 29.

Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Secretary with the Governor General, 6th August 1838.

Enclosure in No. 29.

Captain Hennell, Resident in the Persian Gulf, to J. P. Willoughby, Esq.

(Extract.)

About Four Years ago I had the Honour to communicate some Circumstances of a suspicious Nature connected with an Individual calling himself Count Dieskau, a Native of Hamburgh, then on the point of embarking for Bombay from this Port.

Enclosure.

From private Information received this Day, which I have Permission to lay before Government, it appears that the Person above referred to, after traversing a great Part of India, and passing himself off as an English Ambassador at Cabool and Herat Two Years ago, proceeded to Tiflis, and there entered into the Russian Service. It goes on to say, that he has lately received Letters informing him that the *soi-disant* Count Dieskau, accompanied by a Mr. Frees (the Son of a German Professor), left on a Mission to India in October or November last, employed and paid by Russia. Their Instructions were to visit Bokhara, Cabool, Lahore, and Calcutta; for which Purpose they had been furnished with Letters of Introduction from the Russian Government to a Turkoman Chief on the Eastern Shore of the Caspian, to the Rulers of the Two former Places (Cabool and Bokhara), to Monsieur Allard, and an American at the Capital of Runjeet Sing. They were directed to examine, with the greatest Care and Accuracy, all the Passes of the Hindoo Koosh; to inform themselves most minutely regarding the Chiefs, the Inhabitants, their Feelings, Views, and Sentiments, while the Resources of the Countries they passed through were to occupy a prominent Part in their Inquiries, to enable them to acquire a perfect Acquaintance with the Territories of the Sikhs, and the leading Men of that Nation. They were instructed, as a temporary Arrangement, to enter into the Service of Runjeet Sing, and, having accomplished the varied and important Objects committed to their Charge, to proceed to Calcutta, and from thence to return to Russia, in order to lay all the Information thus acquired before the Government of that Country.

No. 30.

Captain BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

Sir,

Simla, 30th August 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to transmit further Intelligence from Candahar, which has just reached me. Some of it has been already reported, but I believe the succinct Detail in which it is given will prove interesting to the Right Honourable the Governor General.

No. 30.

Captain Burnes to the Secretary with the Governor General, 30th Aug. 1838.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

VI.

Enclosure in No. 30.

No. 30.
Captain Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
30th Aug. 1838.

Enclosure.

Intelligence received from Candahar to the Address of Captain Burnes, dated early in July.

I have sent Four Cossids to you, which I hope have safely reached by this Time.

The Cossid whose Letters were taken at Cabool, and waited upon you by my Request at Peshawur, is come back to me with a few Lines from you, and a Note, the Contents of which I perfectly understand. I fear nobody but God; be at Ease on my Part.

The Report has reached here that Mr. Macnaghten and you are with the Maharajah at Kussoolnuggur.

You take no Notice of the Fire which has been kindled in Khorassan and Affghanistan. You will see how far it extends in the course of Six Months.

Mahomed Shah has written a Letter to the Sirdars at Candahar. The Contents of the Letter were much, but I tell you the Result of it.

"Since the Arrival of Mahomed Omar Khan His Majesty has become sure of the Attachment of the Sirdars at Candahar to Persia, and that they should be at ease on account of their Son Mahomed Omar Khan. After taking Herat His Majesty will send Vickovitch (Omar Khan), the Man of the Russian Ambassador, to them and Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan with the Amount of Nine Lacs Rupees, and then they must hold themselves ready to receive the Orders of the Shah."

This Letter was sealed by the Shah, his Minister Meerza Hajee Aghassee, and the Russian Ambassador.

Mahomed Omar Khan was received by 10,000 Persian Cavalry, and presented with Four Guns and Five Pairs of Dresses of Honour. The Shah has given him a Place near his own Tent, and his Agent Alladad Khan lives with the Russian Ambassador. Mahomed Omar Khan get 200 Ducats every Day for his Expenses; and the Shah has told him that he will do much more for the Sirdars than he has promised in his Letters.

This Intelligence was sent by Mahomed Omar Khan to his Father Kohen Dil Khan through Khodadad Khan Chapper, Courier, who arrived here in Eleven Days from Herat.

Two Days after the Arrival of Mahomed Omar Khan the Persians made an Assault on Herat, and lost 400 People, besides 200 or 300 wounded. Borowski and Samson have been dreadfully wounded, and the former nearly killed. The Head of one of the Russian Officers was cut off and taken into the City by the Affghans. Yar Mahomed Khan lost 300 Men on the Field, and 100 Affghans were wounded. After this Engagement both Parties returned to their own Quarters.

The Arrival of Mahomed Omar Khan at the Persian Camp has deeply disheartened the Affghans at Herat. Many of them have turned against each other; and if the Sirdars at Candahar write to Mahomed Omar Khan he would easily take Herat, for the Affghans would likely surrender it to him.

Mahomed Sadig Khan, the eldest Son of Kohen Dil Khan, has possessed Furrah, and is repairing it.

Notwithstanding the Sirdars have made Friendship with Persia and the Russian Ambassador, in Heart they are anxious to do so with the English, and appear to wait for British Assistance.

In my former Letter I informed you that the British Ambassador has got Leave from the Shah of Persia, and now I have heard that his Excellency has gone to India.

(No. 45.)

No. 31.

The GOVERNMENT of BOMBAY to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

(Extract.)

1st December 1838.

No. 31.
Government of
Bombay to the
Secret Committee,
1st Dec. 1838.

WE have the Honour to forward, for the Information of your Honourable Committee, Copy of a Letter, dated the 9th and received on the 30th ultimo, from Lieutenant Colonel Sir Alexander Burnes, the Envoy to Kelat, transmitting

mitting for our Information Copy of a Letter he had addressed to the Government of India, containing some Intelligence from Candahar connected with the Intrigues of Russia in that Quarter.

VI.

No. 31.

Government of
Bombay to the
Secret Committee,
1st Dec. 1838.

First Enclosure in No. 31.

Captain Burnes to J. P. Willoughby, Esq.

Sir,

Shikarpore, 9th November 1838.

Enclosure No. 1.

I have the Honour to transmit, for the Information of the Honourable the Governor in Council, a Copy of my Letter of this Day's Date to the Government of India, containing some singular Intelligence from Candahar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

Second Enclosure in No. 31.

Captain Burnes to W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.

Sir,

Shikarpore, 9th November 1838.

Enclosure No. 2.

I have the Honour to forward, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, some very singular Items of Intelligence which have just reached me from Candahar. It will be seen that my Correspondent there has been sent to meet me here, and some of his Statements are of a most extraordinary Nature.

It at first occurred to me that the Despatch of this Person might be a Ruse of the Candahar Chief to get rid of one who overlooked their Nation; but I imagine rather that they are involved in much Perplexity.

The Presence of a Russian Agent at Candahar tallies but ill with the Shah's acceding to all our Requests, as reported by Colonel Stoddart, or we are now to make a Distinction between Russian and Persian Intrigues, and conclude at once that the former wish to approach India without Persia as a Cloak.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

Third Enclosure in No. 31.

Intelligence received from Candahar addressed to Captain Burnes at Shikarpore,
9th November 1838.

On the 18th October I wrote to Mr. Leech about Captain Vickovitch, the Agent of the Russian Ambassador, on which you are also informed.

Enclosure No. 3.

On the 26th of the above Month Captain Vickovitch reached Candahar, having left Mahomed Shah at Kasan on the other Side of Ghorian; Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan wanted to send his Son Mahomed Omar Khan and 300 Horsemen for his Reception, but Captain Vickovitch prevented the Sirdar doing so. He entered the City alone, and put up in the House of Meera Zaha.

Captain Vickovitch told the Sirdars that he was the Bearer of 60,000 Ducats. Out of the above Sum he has a Bill for 40,000 Ducats on the Treasury of Kirman, and that Money will be paid in Three Months hence to Dost Mahomed Khan; 10,000 Ducats he has in Cash for the Sirdars, who will get 10,000 more from Kain, where they go with their Army to Herat.

After a long Discussion on both Sides the Sirdars took the 10,000 Ducats from Captain Vickovitch, and divided them. Kohen Dil Khan has pitched One Coss from the City on his Way to Herat, and Troops are daily assembling to join him.

The Sirdars asked Captain Vickovitch whether Mahomed Shah was the Friend of the English, or of Russia; he answered, of the latter. On this the Sirdars observed, if the Russians are the Friends of the Persians why could not Mahomed Shah take Herat during the Siege of Ten Months, and why did he at last leave it in Possession of the English?

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X

Captain

VI.

No. 31.

Government of
Bombay to the
Secret Committee,
1st Dec. 1838.

Enclosure No. 3.

Captain Vickovitch replied that he had also told the Russian Ambassador that it was the Opinion of the People that Mahomed Shah had a Friendship with the English. When the Ambassador heard this he waited upon Mahomed Shah, and said that the Retirement of His Majesty from Herat will bring the English, and it will be reduced to their Subjection. The Shah explained to the Ambassador that it was impossible to take Herat, even if it were besieged for One Year more, because all his Persian Nobles are not willing to conquer it.

The Russian Ambassador then asked the Shah his Opinion of taking Measures about Herat; he told him to send Money to the Affghan Chiefs. The Shah said, when the Affghans come against Herat I will also order my Forces in Khorassan to join them in attacking that City. On this the Ambassador told the Shah if the City of Herat was not even taken by the combined Arms of the Affghans and Khorassans, what then was the Mode to reduce it. The Shah pointed out to the Ambassador that it was not according to Treaty that Russian Forces should pass through Persia, but now His Majesty would bring no Objection if that Government should send their Army through it to reduce any Country they liked. This Permission from the Shah was received by the Ambassador with great Thanks and Pleasure. The Ambassador has gone with the Shah.

The Sirdars told Captain Vickovitch that they were now quite satisfied about Herat, but they feared for Candahar, which may be taken by the English. He answered then that it was not the Law among Europeans that one Nation should dare to conquer a Foreign Land in the Presence of an Officer from another, and therefore his (Vickovitch's) Presence will prevent the English coming. These Words have made the Sirdars totally fearless of any ill Luck.

The Ameers of Sinde have written to the Sirdars that the English and Shah Shooja are advancing to take Affghanistan, which has perplexed Kohen Dil Khan very much.

The Ameers of Sinde have written to the Sirdars that Shah Shooja is coming to take his Ancestors Country, and we (the Ameers) are not pleased with him. On this the Sirdars, and also Captain Vickovitch, wrote separate Letters to the Ameers of Sinde, saying that they should remain quiet for Three Months, and the Ameers will soon see them on the Indus with their Army.

No. 32.

J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., to the SECRETARY of the COURT of DIRECTORS.

(Extract.)

Bombay Castle, 4th December 1838.

No. 32.
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq., to the
Secretary of the
Court of Directors,
4th Dec. 1838.

WITH reference to the Letter, No. 45., addressed by this Government to the Honourable the Secret Committee on the 1st instant, transmitting Copy of one from Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes, the Envoy to Kelat, with Enclosure containing important Intelligence from Candahar, I am desired by the Honourable the Governor in Council to forward to you, for the Purpose of Delivery to the Honourable the Secret Committee, the accompanying Copy of a further Despatch on the Subject from Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes, dated the 14th ultimo, this Moment received.

No. 33.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. BURNES to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

Shikarpore, 14th November 1838.

No. 33.
Lieut. Col.
Sir A. Burnes
to
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq.,
14th Nov. 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to forward, for the Information of the Honourable the Governor in Council, some further Information regarding the new Russian Intrigue at Candahar contained in my Letter of Yesterday to the Government of India.

I append likewise a Letter on the same Subject, received since it was written, by Major Leech.

First Enclosure in No. 33.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes to W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.

(Extract.)

Shikarpore, 13th November 1838.

In continuation of my Letter of the 9th instant, reporting on the Proceedings of the Candahar Chiefs and Captain Vickovitch, I now append another Letter from Candahar to the Address of Major Leech.

The Proceedings of Captain Vickovitch at Candahar are Matters of Notoriety here, and may have a prejudicial Effect at Hyderabad. I also find that the Russians have sent Presents to Alee Khan, the Beloochee Chief of Seistan. I keep Colonel Pottinger informed on these Matters, and indeed on all that is going on.

VI.

No. 33.

Lieut. Col.

Sir A. Burnes

to

J. P. Willoughby,

Esq.,

14th Nov. 1838.

Enclosure No. 1.

Second Enclosure in No. 33.

Letter addressed to Major R. Leech.

(Extract.)

Candahar, 25th October 1838.

I Yesterday asked Kohen Dil Khan what he meant by proceeding towards Herat in the present Crisis of Affairs, and what was to be done with the English. He said, that if the English were encamped on the Plains of Candahar he could not help going as far as Furrah. He said his only Plan was to remain at Furrah, as the Persians and Russians had told him; and if Candahar in the Interim should be taken or besieged, the Russians would have the Blame; that the Russians would give Money and Troops to them, that they might come back and fight at Candahar; and that if they did not find the English there, they might employ the Resources put at their Disposal to subdue Herat.

Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan has left Candahar, having distributed Ducats to his Army; he expected to arrive at Furrah on the 9th November.

Captain Vickovitch has brought 1,000 Kharwars of Grain for the Sirdar that was in the Fort of Shumsoodeen Khan.

Enclosure No. 2.

Third Enclosure in No. 33.

Letter to Major R. Leech.

(Extract.)

Candahar, 25th October 1838.

Alladad Khan and Captain Vickovitch arrived at Candahar on the 17th October, bringing with them 10,000 Ducats, which Kohen Dil Khan immediately applied for. The Russian answered that it rested with Alladad Khan to give the Money as soon as the Sirdars should start.

On the 21st of October the Sirdars pitched their Pesh Kheena (advanced Tents), and received the 10,000 Ducats. Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan took for his Share 2,700 Ducats; Sirdar Rehem Dil and Mehir Dil Khans took the same; Meer Affzul Khan received 950 Ducats, and Mahomed Sadig Khan the same Sum.

On the 22d of October Four Messengers arrived from Ameer Dost Mahomed, saying that Captain Burnes and Mr. Wood had arrived at Peshawur with Thirty Regiments, that the Sikhs had retired from Peshawur, and urging the Sirdars not to quit Candahar.

Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan showed the Letter to Captain Vickovitch, who said that they were at liberty to act as they pleased. The Sirdars said they would start in Four Days.

Enclosure No. 3.

No. 34.

The BOMBAY GOVERNMENT to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

(Extract.)

26th December 1838.

IN continuation of the Despatch from Sir A. Burnes, the Envoy to Kelat, dated the 14th ult., regarding the Intrigues of Russia in Candahar, which was forwarded to your Honourable Committee through the Secretary at the

(43.)

East

No. 34.

Bombay Govern-
ment to the
Secret Committee,
26th Dec. 1838.

VI.

No. 34.

Bombay Govern-
ment to the
Secret Committee,
26th Dec. 1838.

East India House, we have the Honour to transmit Two other Communications from that Officer, dated 22d and 27th of the same Month, containing further Intelligence on the Subject.

We beg to state, for your Honourable Committee's Information, that we have caused Copies of Sir A. Burnes's Despatches on the above Subject to be forwarded to Her Majesty's Envoy at the Court of Persia.

We have also the Honour to forward, for the Information of your Honourable Committee, Copies of Two further Despatches from Sir A. Burnes, dated 29th ult. and 3d and 5th instant, reporting further Intelligence.

First Enclosure in No. 34.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes to J. P. Willoughby, Esq.

Enclosure No. 1.

Sir,

Shikarpore, 22d November 1838.

I have the Honour to transmit a Copy of my Letter of this Day's Date to the Government of India for the Information of the Honourable the Governor in Council.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. BURNES.

Second Enclosure in No. 34.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes to W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.

Enclosure No. 2.

(Extract.)

Shikarpore, 22d November 1838.

In continuation of Captain Vickovitch's Proceedings at Candahar, I have the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General, that that Officer is giving great Encouragement to the Chiefs; he has urged them to put their Ditch and Walls in repair, and to collect Supplies of Grain, which my Informants tell me are being done.

This Agent does not wish to figure as a Russian but as a Persian; he gives out that his Proceedings are guided by Mahomed Shah's Orders, whose Ally and Friend is his Master the Emperor.

The last Advices here state that the Vizier of Herat, the brave Yar Mahomed Khan, has invested Furrah, where a Son of the Candahar Sirdars now is; so that these Chiefs may be shaping their Proceedings to counteract Danger that impends from Herat as well as from us.

Third Enclosure in No. 34.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes to J. P. Willoughby, Esq.

Enclosure No. 3.

Sir,

Shikarpore, 27th November 1838.

I have the Honour to transmit the Copy of a Paper of Intelligence from Kelat for the Information of the Honourable the Governor in Council.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

A. BURNES.

Sub-inclosure in Third Inclosure in No. 34.

Heads of Intelligence received from Kelat, under Date 16th November, and received on the 27th November 1838 at Shikarpore.

Sub-inclosure in
Enclosure No. 3.

The Son of Shah Kamran who ruled in Furrah, and had taken Shelter in the Hills of Goorband, has come back to Furrah, and at the Head of numerous Affghans, to fight with Mahomed Sadig Khan.

Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan has pitched at Vasheen, Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan (in company with Captain Vickovitch) at Kishk Rekhed, and Sirdar Rehem Dil Khan near the Hanz Madad, Twelve Coss Distance from the City. All the Troops are preparing to follow and join them.

Aga Seid Mahomed, Agent of Dost Mohamed Khan, who had proceeded through the Hazareh with Presents to the Persian Court, has been carried away by

by the Shah, and His Majesty has promised to send him back with Money to Cabool.

Abdul Oaheb Khan, the Servant of the Russian Ambassador, who passed through Candahar on his Way to Cabool in charge of the Dress of Honour for Dost Mahomed Khan, has been told that he will not be permitted to leave Cabool till the Ameer's Agent, Aga Mahomed, is restored by the Shah. This has been reported by Vahab Khan himself to the Sirdars of Candahar, who told him in reply that it was his own Fault for proceeding to Cabool against their Advice.

VI.

No. 34.

Bombay Govern-
ment to the
Secret Committee,
26th Dec. 1838.

Sub-inclosure in
Enclosure No. 3.

Fourth Enclosure in No. 34.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes to J. B. Willoughby, Esq.

(Extract.)

Shikarpore, 29th November 1838.

Enclosure No. 4.

I have the Honour to transmit a Copy of my Despatch of this Day's Date to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Fifth Enclosure in No. 34.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes to W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.

(Extract.)

Shikarpore, 29th November 1838.

Enclosure No. 5.

I have since my Arrival here reported in various Communications the Proceedings of the Russian Agent at Candahar, though I have failed to hitherto satisfy myself on the precise Objects of Captain Vickovitch's Mission. Our Intelligence from Candahar has been all along accurate, and you will see that the Letters sent from Candahar to Hyderabad under Captain Vickovitch's Instigation (if not by himself) have at last come to light, as stated in the Sixth Paragraph of Colonel Pottinger's Letter of the 23d instant, now forwarded. It now turns out that the Chiefs of Candahar have offered a Portion of their Russian Bribe to the Chief of Kelat; and such is the unhappy Fatality hanging over these disunited Chiefs that such an Offer carries with it Weight, and leads Mehrab Khan to think he can play it off against the British in tendering his Services. I have laid open to him the Penalty he will incur, the Line of Duty he ought to follow, and the deceitful Nature of the Promises of the Candahar Chiefs, whom he should fear, though bringing Presents.

No. 35.

The BOMBAY GOVERNMENT to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

(Extract.)

Bombay Castle, 18th January 1839.

No. 35.

The Government of
Bombay to the
Secret Committee,
18th Jan. 1839.

ON the 15th of December 1838, in his Letter to the Secretary with the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes forwarded a Paper of Intelligence from Candahar, which had reached him at Shikarpore on the previous Evening, which throws considerable Light on the Intrigues of Russia in that Quarter, and in which Captain Vickovitch is represented to have taken a prominent Part.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes has received authentic Confirmation of the above Intelligence from some respectable Affghans who arrived at Shikarpore on their Route to join the Shah, and these Persons state it to be the Intention of the Chiefs of Candahar to hold out against us at Furrah, and abandon Candahar.

In his Letter dated the 21st ultimo Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes forwards translated Extracts from a Communication to his Address dated the 9th November 1838, containing further Particulars of the Proceedings of Russia and her Agents in Central Asia.

With his Letter dated the 22d ultimo Lieutenant Colonel Burnes forwards a Paper of authentic Intelligence of the Proceedings of the Russians in Affghanistan.

No. 36.

VI.

No. 36.
Sir A. Burnes
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
15th Dec. 1838.

Sir A. BURNES to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

(Extract.)

Shikarpore, 15th December 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to transmit a Paper of Intelligence from Candahar which reached me last Night.

The Proceedings of Captain Vickovitch develop themselves.

Enclosure in No. 36.

To Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes.—(Received at Shikarpore,
14th December 1838.)

Enclosure.

Captain Vickovitch has given Ten thousand Ducats to the Sirdars of Candahar, and promised them Ten thousand more when they arrive at Furrah, and the same Number again on reaching One March on this Side of Herat, and Twenty thousand Ducats on besieging that City. The Sirdars have consequently left Candahar and arrived at Furrah. Mehirdil Khan has been sent back to Candahar, for he was afraid of the Ghilzees making an Insurrection, because the Heads of that Tribe, Abdoorrahman Khan and Sultan Mahomed Khan, the Sons of Shahabooddeen Khan, and Gool Mahomed Khan the Son of Khanan, had received Letters from Shah Shooja, and because in the City there were Hajee Khan, Soohbat Khan, and Mama, on whom the Sirdars had but little Confidence.

Vizier Yar Mahomed Khan is involved in a very distressed Condition. He wrote to Kohen Dil Khan stating that the Kajars had just raised the Siege, and that he (Kohen Dil) should not come to invade Herat, but if he did he should bring Dost Mahomed Khan along with him, and please God they would not be able to conquer it for Four Months, after which it has got a Master who will present himself soon.

No. 37.

No. 37.
Sir A. Burnes
to the
Deputy Secretary
with the Governor
General,
21st Dec. 1838.

Sir A. BURNES to H. TORRENS, Esq., the Deputy Secretary with the Governor General.

Sir,

Shikarpore, 21st December 1838.

I ANNEX some Extracts of a Letter just received containing Particulars of the Proceedings of Russia and her Agents in Central Asia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. BURNES.

Enclosure in No. 37.

To Sir A. Burnes.

(Extract.)

9th November 1838.

We received your Letter, and were much pleased on learning its Contents.

The Russian Agent, who lately came to Dost Mahomed Khan, presented Six hundred Yards of long Cloth and a few Pieces of Broad Cloth. He has put up at Meerza Samee Khan's, and is in a distressed State, not knowing what Course he should pursue. There is no Account of Agha Seid Mahomed, who had been deputed by Dost Mahomed to Persia.

No. 38.

No. 38.
Sir A. Burnes
to
H. Torrens, Esq.
22d Dec. 1838.

Sir ALEXANDER BURNES to HENRY TORRENS, Esq.

Sir,

Shikarpore, 22d December 1838.

I do myself the Honour to transmit, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, a Paper of authentic Intelligence of the Proceedings of the Russians in Affghanistan.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Letter to Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Burnes and Major Leech—(Received at Shikarpore 22d December 1838.)

VI.

No. 38.
Sir A. Burnes

to
H. Torrens, Esq.,
22d Dec. 1838.

Enclosure.

11th December 1838.

On the 11th of December, Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan invited Captain Vickovitch to a Party at his House, where there were present Moolla Nussoo Nazur Mahomed Khan and Hajee Hoosein Alee Khan, the Persian Ambassador. The Sirdar told Captain Vickovitch that he (the Captain) had told them (the Sirdars) that on that Side of the Indus was the British Government, and on this Side that of Mahomed Shah, who owes Allegiance to Russia; that since they had also submitted themselves to Russian Allegiance, it behoved him to assist them against the English, who are now going to invade Affghanistan. Captain Vickovitch answered that they were not in the Allegiance of Russia, because, though he had given them Ten thousand Ducats to set out for Herat, they had not yet travelled Twenty-five Cosses during Fifty Days, and that when they arrived at Herat he could then assist them against any Enemy. He also added, that he was deputed to Ameer Dost Mahomed Khan, and that the Ameer had sent his Letter to Russia by his Man Hubboo Khan, declaring himself a Servant of the Russian Government, and given an unsealed Copy of it to himself; that the Man had come as far as Candahar, and then disappeared; that he sent the Copy of the Letter to his Government, and received a Letter for the Ameer to this Effect, that he (the Ameer) was not a Servant but a Friend, that if he wanted the Russian Friendship he should write so, and it would send to him Four Lacs of Ducats and Four Officers skilled in Artillery and Infantry Exercise; and that he was waiting for an Answer to that Letter from the Ameer, after the Receipt of which he would return to Russia.

He also stated that the Russian Government had more Reliance on Dost Mahomed Khan's Intellect and Power than on the Chiefs of Candahar, because he, notwithstanding his Poverty, and being without Means, is fighting against the Sikhs, who are provided with every thing; and the Sirdars of Candahar were so senseless as to believe that Mahomed Shah, after conquering Herat, would give it over to them, which was absurd.

Sirdar Kohen Dil Khan and Sirdar Mehir Afzul Khan each sent Three Horses, together with Captain Vickovitch's Letter, to Meer Nuseer Khan, at Hyderabad, by Mahomed Ibrahim.

Sirdar Mehir Dil Khan returned to Candahar on the 1st of December; on the next Day Captain Vickovitch waited upon Mehir Dil Khan, and asked him to go to Kohen Dil Khan, and manage the Expense of the Troops, because the Ten thousand Ducats which he had given to them are all spent. The Sirdar stated that One thousand Kharwars of Wheat belonging to Shumsoodeen Khan, a Servant of Mahomed Shah, were deposited in Forts, which Captain Vickovitch should get for the Army, either by Purchase or gratis. This Request Captain Vickovitch refused, stating that this was not the Time for him to proceed to the Camp, "because Messrs. Burnes, Leech, and Wood were in the Neighbourhood of Shikarpore clearing the Jungles, making Roads, and purchasing Grain and Supplies for the Army. Colonel Pottinger was at Hyderabad, and the Governor General of India at Loodiana; that these Officers must have some determined Objects. If he leaves, it might occasion some Trouble, but if he remains at Candahar, some Remedy might be found."

The Sirdars then asked for Letters of Recommendation to the Russian Ambassador, Mahomed Shah, and Shumsoodeen to supply the Army with Grain and Money. Forage and other Supplies were very scarce at Herat.

On the 4th of December a Messenger arrived with Kohen Dil Khan's Letter to Mehir Dil Khan. This Sirdar took the Letters to Captain Vickovitch, and read them to him.

VII.

THE OCCUPATION OF KARRAK.

No. 1.

W. H. MACNAGHTEN Esq., Secretary with the Governor General of India,
to JOHN McNEILL, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordi-
nary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Persia.

(Extract.)

Simla, 1st May 1838.

I AM directed by the Right Hon. the Governor General of India to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter dated the 7th ultimo, with the Copies of Despatches to the Address of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs which accompanied it, and for which his Lordship desires me to tender to you his best Thanks.

His Lordship gathers from these Documents that the State of our Relations with Persia is at the present Moment exceedingly critical. It has occurred to the Governor General that it might prove of very essential Aid to your Negotiations were as many Cruisers as can be spared for the Service, together with a Regiment of native Infantry, despatched to the Persian Gulf, to hold themselves in Readiness for any Service on which your Excellency might deem it expedient, under the Orders of Her Majesty's Government, or the general Authority which you may possess from it, to employ them with a view to the Maintenance of our Interests in Persia. A Recommendation to this Effect will accordingly be made immediately to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council of Bombay, who will further be requested to despatch the Hugh Lindsay to the Gulf, with a view of conveying rapid Intelligence to India of the State of Affairs in Persia in the present highly critical Emergency.

His Lordship understands from a demi-official Communication with which your Excellency has favoured him, that it is your Intention to proceed to Herat, with a view of prevailing on His Majesty the Shah to raise the Siege of that City. Your Excellency is fully aware of the great Importance attached by the British Government in India to the Preservation of the Integrity of that Place, and his Lordship would be glad of any Efforts you can make to save it which may not be inconsistent with the Instructions under which you are acting from Her Majesty's Government.

No. 2.

W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq., to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., Secretary to the
Government of Bombay.

Sir,

Simla, 1st May 1838.

I AM desired by the Right Honourable the Governor General of India to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, dated the 16th ultimo, transmitting a Packet from the Envoy Extraordinary in Persia to my Address, containing Copies of Despatches to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, in reply, to forward to you the accompanying Copy of a Letter this Day written to Mr. McNeill.

It is requested that the Right Honourable the Governor in Council will comply with the Suggestions contained in the Second Paragraph of that Letter at the earliest practicable Period, if the Troops and Cruisers can be conveniently spared, and that the Hugh Lindsay may be forthwith despatched with the accompanying Despatch to Mr. McNeill, with Instructions to the Resident at Bushire to forward it to his Excellency either at Herat or Tehran, or wherever he may happen to be.

The Hugh Lindsay should be considered at the Disposal of Mr. McNeill, or, failing Instructions from his Excellency, of the Resident at Bushire, until the present Crisis is passed.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. H. MACNAGHTEN.

VII.

No. 1.

The Secretary with
the Governor
General to
J. McNeill, Esq.,
1st May 1838.

No. 2.

The Secretary with
the Governor
General to
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq.,
1st May 1838.

VII.

No. 3.

The Governor
General to the
Secret Committee,
1st May 1838.

No. 3.

The GOVERNOR GENERAL of INDIA to the SECRET COMMITTEE of the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

Simla, 1st May 1838.

(Extract.)

You will observe that, with reference to the very critical State of our Relations with Persia, I have taken upon myself to request the Bombay Government to despatch the Hugh Lindsay to the Gulf, with a Regiment, and such Cruizers as can be spared, having Reason to believe that in the Opinion of Her Majesty's Envoy the Presence of this Force will tend materially to the Success of his Negotiation.

No. 4.

No. 4.
Proceedings held
at an Extraordinary
Council at Malabar
Point,
19th May 1838.

PROCEEDINGS held at an EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL of the BOMBAY GOVERNMENT on the 19th May 1838.

READ and recorded a Letter from Mr. Secretary Macnaghten, dated the 1st instant, with its Enclosure of the same Date, being Copy of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Macnaghten to his Excellency John McNeill, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Persia.

The Board having taken the above into consideration, and having consulted Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Malcolm, Superintendent of the Indian Navy, Major Neill Campbell, Acting Quartermaster General of the Army, Captain Turner, Mint Engineer, and Captain Lowe, commanding the Honourable Company's Steamer Berenice, as to the best and easiest Mode of equipping and transporting a small Force to the Persian Gulf, it is unanimously resolved as follows :—

That in consideration of the probable Importance of the Despatches received Yesterday by Express from the Governor General at Simla, it is not expedient that the Departure of the Berenice with the overland Mail, on the 21st instant, should be interfered with.

That, with reference to that Part of the Governor General's Instructions directing that the Hugh Lindsay Steamer be sent to the Persian Gulf, his Lordship be informed that both Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Malcolm and Captain Lowe being of opinion that at this late Season of the Year it is more than doubtful whether this Vessel could reach Muscat, and that on Failure thereof she would have no Alternative but to return to Bombay, it is impossible that this Part of the Instructions can be carried into effect.

That it appearing that the Honourable Company's Steamer Semiramis can be got ready for Sea in Ten Days from this Date, and that as this Vessel has been directed to proceed to Calcutta to try an Experiment which ought to yield to the Necessity of complying with the Governor General's Orders in an Emergency of the present Description, she be despatched to the Persian Gulf with as many Troops on board as she can conveniently accommodate.

That as it distinctly appears from the Statements of Sir Charles Malcolm that the Tigris can carry no Troops, and the Coote a very few, while the Semiramis cannot well carry above 300, Sir C. Malcolm be directed to endeavour to engage a Vessel of 400 or 500 Tons for the Conveyance of Troops to the Persian Gulf.

That he be directed to prepare the Honourable Company's Sloop of War Coote for Service in the Persian Gulf with all practicable Despatch.

That the Honourable Company's Brig of War Tigris, now ready for Sea, be ordered to proceed to the Persian Gulf as soon as Despatches can be prepared for the Envoy in Persia and the Resident at Bushire, informing those Officers of the Measures about to be adopted by this Government to give effect to the Instructions of the Governor General.

That by the above Vessel Orders be issued to the Resident at Bushire to concentrate the whole of the Squadron in the Persian Gulf at Bushire, or at the Isle of Karrak.

That

That, provided Tonnage can be obtained, a Force consisting of 500 Rank and File of Native Infantry, and Two Six Pounders, completely equipped for Service, be despatched with as little Delay as possible to Bushire.

That the Native Infantry be composed of Detachments from the 15th, 23d, and 24th Regiments, and the Marine Battalion, now forming Part of the Garrison of Bombay, in order to admit of those Castes being selected which are likely to suffer least from a Sea Voyage.

That it being highly desirable that an Officer of Judgment and Experience should be selected to command on this Service, the Right Honourable the President proposes that Lieutenant Colonel Shirriff be specially selected to command the Expedition, and be directed to place himself under the political Control of the Resident in the Persian Gulf.

That the Commissariat Department be directed to provision the Troops for a Period of Six Weeks; that all Indents connected with the Expedition be passed as on an emergent Service, and that all Expenses incurred be debited to the Government of India.

That Captain Hennell be directed to make the best Arrangements in his Power for landing the Troops, he being informed that the Island of Karrak appears to this Government to be the most convenient Spot for this Purpose; and that he also be informed that the Troops are placed under his political Control, subject to the Instructions of the Envoy in Persia.

That Copy of Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's Letter of the 1st instant, and of its Enclosure, be transmitted to Captain Hennell in explanation of his Lordship's Views in ordering this Demonstration.

That the Resident be directed to apprise the Envoy in Persia of the Arrival of these Troops, and of their being placed entirely at his Excellency's Disposal.

That the Resident be directed to apprise the Persian Authorities at Bushire that the Troops are sent on a special Service to the Gulf, and that the British Government hope that they will make no Objection to their being landed at Karrak, and that they will afford every Aid in effecting that Object; Captain Hennell being informed that it is left to his Discretion to land them on that Island, even in opposition to the Wishes of those Authorities, provided he deems this necessary and expedient, and that it can be done without compromising the Safety of the Troops.

That the Despatches recently received from the Governor General to the Envoy in Persia be forwarded by the Semiramis, together with Duplicates of the Despatches of this Government to be sent by the Tigris.

That Copy of Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's Letter and Enclosure of the 1st instant, and Copy of these Resolutions, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors by the Honourable Company's Steamer Berenice.

That Copy of these Resolutions be immediately transmitted to the Governor General, and to the Government of India, with an Intimation that, being unable to carry into effect literally the Instructions of the Supreme Government, we have felt it our Duty to comply in the best Manner our Means will permit with those Instructions, in a Case in which the Interests of the British Empire may be materially and perhaps vitally involved.

No. 5.

(No. 4.)

The GOVERNOR in COUNCIL at BOMBAY to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

Honourable Sirs,

Bombay Castle, 21st May 1838.

WE have the Honour to transmit to your Honourable Committee, by the Steamer Berenice, which leaves this Day with the overland Mail for Suez, Copy of a Despatch from the Secretary to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, dated the 1st instant, relative to the present unsettled State of Affairs in Persia.

In reference to the Second Paragraph of Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's Letter above adverted to, we beg to forward to your Honourable Committee
(43.) a Copy

VII.

No. 4.

Proceedings held
at an Extraordinary
Council at Malabar
Point,
19th May 1838.

No. 5.

The Bombay
Governor in Council
to the Secret
Committee,
21st May 1838.

VII.

No. 5.
The Bombay
Governor in Council
to the Secret
Committee,
21st May 1838.

a Copy of the Resolutions of this Government for carrying into effect the Wishes of his Lordship, and to express our Hope that the Measures which we have deemed it our Duty to adopt will meet the Approval of your Honourable Committee.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

R. GRANT.

J. FARISH.

GEO. W. ANDERSON.

No. 6.

(No. 37.)

Captain HENNELL, Resident at Bushire, to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

No. 6.
Captain Hennell
to
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq.,
18th June 1838.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 18th June 1838.

THIS Morning by the Semiramis Steamer I had the Honour to receive the important Letter addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at the Court of Persia, and now beg to acquaint you that it has been despatched to Tehran, under Charge of my Jellowdar and a Cossid mounted from my Stable, under Instructions to use every Exertion for its speedy and safe Conveyance to its Destination.

No. 7.

L. R. REID, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay to
Captain HENNELL.

No. 7.
L. R. Reid, Esq.,
to
Captain Hennell,
3d July 1838.

Sir,

Bombay Castle, 3d July 1838.

I AM directed to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter dated the 18th ultimo (No. 37.), and to acquaint you that the Right Honourable the Governor in Council approves of your having forwarded the Despatch to the Envoy in Persia in the Manner therein indicated.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

L. R. REID.

No. 8.

Commodore BRUCKS, of the Indian Navy, to J. C. MELVILL, Esq., Secretary to
the Court of Directors.

No. 8.
Com. Brucks to
J. C. Melvill, Esq.,
19th June 1838.

(Extract.)

Steamer Semiramis, Karrak Island, 19th June 1838.

AGREEABLE to my Instructions, I have the Honour to acquaint you, for the Information of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, that the Semiramis anchored at this Island at 1.30 P.M. this Day, having sailed from Bombay on the 4th June at 4 P.M.; arrived at Muscat at 7 P.M. of the 11th; sailed from thence at 10 P.M. of the 13th; anchored off Bushire at Midnight of the 17th, and sailed from thence this Morning.

We had 387 Troops and Followers, besides Two Guns, Carriages, and Ammunition, embarked. On the Passage across, except the Two last Days, we had a moderate Monsoon; on those Days we had a strong Wind from South-west, with an increasing Head Sea. Considering the great Top Weight (for all were on Deck) we made good Way, averaging 128 Miles per Diem. We should have done much better, but had only Two Firemen who had ever seen a Coal Fire; the Consequence was we never could get the Steam kept up; Two Inches instead of Three and a Half being the highest it ever rose on the Gauge.

The Troops I am happy to say are now being landed with the Consent of the Authorities of the Place.

No. 9.

(No. 38.)

Captain HENNELL to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT, Bombay.

H. C. Steamer Semiramis, off Karrak,
20th June 1838.

(Extract.)

I EMBARKED early yesterday Morning on board the Semiramis, and, accompanied by the Hugh Lindsay Steamer, reached the Island of Karrak about One o'Clock, P.M.

Finding no Notice taken of the Gun which had been fired for a Boat, I sent my Arabic Meerza, Hajee Ahmed, on shore with a Message to Sheik Nasir, requesting he would pay me a Visit on board, as I wished to communicate with him upon Matters of Consequence. The Meerza did not return until the Afternoon, when I learnt from him that Sheik Nasir with Six Boats had that Morning gone over to Bushire Roads for the Purpose of having an Interview with me upon the Subject of his own Affairs. He added, that Sheik Abdoolah (the Uncle of Sheik Nasir), and the only Authority here, was too much alarmed to come off, and that he was very anxious that I should wait the Return of his Nephew. To do this, however, appeared to me only a Waste of valuable Time, and it was therefore arranged that the Troops should forthwith commence their landing in the Boats of the Steamers, while I, accompanied by my Meerza, proceeded on a Native Bugalah to the Fort. I was met on the Beach by Sheik Abdoolah, who appeared much relieved on seeing me. I told him in a few Words that the British Government had sent up a Body of Troops upon a special Service, and that the Island of Karrak, on account of the Salubrity of its Climate, had been chosen for their Place of Residence. The Sheik replied that the Island, its Inhabitants, and every thing it contained were entirely at our Disposal. I then intimated that it was desirable the Vessels should be unladen as quickly as possible, as One was to return immediately to Bombay, and begged he would give Orders for the Native Boats to go off and assist in the Disembarkation upon the usual Hire; with which Request he immediately complied. The Assistance given by the Steamers Boats and the Karrak Bugalahs was so effective that before Dark all the Troops, excepting a Guard and working Party on board each Vessel, were landed.

The whole of this Day has been employed in landing the Guns and Stores. The Tents sent from Bombay on board the Steamers being too few in Number to cover the Troops and Officers without their being much crowded, I placed the whole of those belonging to the Residency at the Disposal of Lieutenant Colonel Shirriff, so that with this Addition the whole Detachment will be comfortably lodged until the Tamerlane Transport brings up the Remainder of the Tents.

The Island of Karrak abounds with Wells and Springs of excellent Water, but the limited Population can furnish but small Supplies for the Troops. As far, however, as my Inquiries go there will be no great Difficulty experienced in procuring these from the neighbouring Ports of Gonaya, Bunder Reight, and Bushire.

The Presence of the Schooner Emily at the present Juncture would have been attended with great Advantages, as she would have been very useful in carrying Supplies and keeping up the Communication between the Troops on the Island and the Residency at Bushire. I propose, however, to supply her Place as far as possible by hiring a suitable Vessel, if I can meet with one upon reasonable Terms, to be employed as a Tender.

No. 10.

L. R. REID, Esq., to Captain HENNELL.

Sir,

Bombay Castle, 3d July 1838.

I AM directed to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter dated the 20th ult., announcing the Arrival of the Detachment from Bombay and its Disembarkation on the Island of Karrak, and to inform you that the Right Honourable the Governor in Council approves of all your Proceedings as therein reported.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

L. R. REID.

(43.)

A a

VII.

No. 9.

Captain Hennell
to
the Secretary to
the Bombay
Government,
20th June 1838.

No. 10.

The Secretary to
the Bombay
Government
to
Captain Hennell,
3d July 1838.

VII.

No. 11.

L. R. REID, Esq.,
to the
Secretary to the
Governor General
of India,
3d July 1838.

No. 11.

L. R. REID, Esq., to the SECRETARY with the Governor General of India.

Sir,

Bombay Castle, 3d July 1838.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for the Purpose of being submitted to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, the enclosed Copy of a Letter from the officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 20th ultimo, (No. 38.), announcing the Arrival of the Detachment from Bombay and its Disembarkation on the Island of Karrak, and of my Reply thereto of this Date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. R. REID.

No. 12.

(No. 41.)

Captain HENNELL to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

(Extract.)

22d June 1838.

No. 12.
Captain Hennell
to
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq.,
22d June 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to report my Return Yesterday to Bushire from Karrak on board the Honourable Company's Steamer Semiramis, in company with the Hugh Lindsay.

I now do myself the Honour to enclose, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, a Copy of a Note addressed by me to Meerza Abbas, the Governor of Bushire, immediately subsequent to my Return, upon the Subject of the Location of the Troops in the Island, together with a Copy of his Reply to the same.

No. 13.

Captain HENNELL to Meerza ABBAS.

Bushire, 21st June 1838.

No. 13.
Captain Hennell
to
Meerza Abbas,
21st June 1838.

HAVING been much engaged on the Arrival of the Government Vessels with Packets from Bombay, I had not Leisure to wait upon you to explain the Reason of my sudden Departure from Bushire, but I take the earliest Opportunity after my Return to acquaint you that the British Government having sent a Body of Troops to the Persian Gulf upon a special Service, I have been instructed to intimate the same to you, and to acquaint you that, on account of the Superiority of Karrak over Bassadore and every other Island in point of Climate, the Troops have been landed there. At the same Time I have been directed to express the Hopes entertained by the British Government that you will show them all Kindness, and afford them every Aid during their Stay, particularly in allowing Boats to carry out Supplies of whatever may be required.

(Signed) S. HENNELL.

No. 14.

Meerza ABBAS to Captain HENNELL.

Persian Gulf, 21st June 1838.

No. 14.
Meerza Abbas
to
Captain Hennell,
21st June 1838.

I HAVE had the Honour of receiving your Note brought by Meerza Juwad, and have understood what was written and spoken. What you state in Apology, that in carrying into effect the Orders of your Government you have not had Leisure to visit me, and that for the forwarding the Service of the Sirkar you had been directed to proceed to Karrak on account of the Superiority of its Climate; this is very good. It is necessary for a Subject to perform whatever Orders he may receive from his Superior.

It is also incumbent upon me to represent to my own Government these new Arrangements which have been made and executed by you, and to act according to whatever Directions may be sent, as on certain Points I do not possess Authority to act, and therefore it becomes necessary to apply for Instructions, and to be guided by them. Touching Transport of Supplies to the Vessels, as no Misunderstanding or Separation has taken place between the Two States, very good; there is no Objection; let them be forwarded.

VII.

No. 14.
Meerza Abbas
to
Captain Hennell,
21st June 1838.

No. 15.

L. R. REID, Esq., to Captain HENNELL.

Sir,

Bombay, 3d July 1838.

I AM directed to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter dated the 22d ultimo (No. 41.), reporting your Return to Bushire from Karrak, and submitting the Copy of a Note addressed by you to Meerza Abbas, the Governor of Bushire, on the Subject of the Location of the Troops at Karrak, together with Copy of the Meerza's Reply, and to acquaint you that the Right Honourable the Governor in Council approves of the Tenor of your Communication to Meerza Abbas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. R. REID.

No. 15.
L. R. Reid, Esq.,
to
Captain Hennell,
3d July 1838.

No. 16.

L. R. REID, Esq., to W. H. MACNAGHTEN Esq.

Sir,

Bombay, 3d July 1838.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for the Purpose of being submitted to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, the enclosed Copy of a Despatch from the officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 22d ultimo (No. 41.), reporting the Correspondence which he had with Meerza Abbas, the Governor of Bushire, on the Subject of the Location of the British Troops at Karrak, and of my Reply thereto of this Date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. R. REID.

No. 16.
L. R. Reid, Esq.,
to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
3d July 1838.

No. 17.

The GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL at BOMBAY to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

Honourable Sirs,

Bombay Castle, 11th July 1838.

WITH reference to our Letter dated the 21st May last (No. 4.), relative to the unsettled State of Affairs in Persia, we have the Honour to transmit to your Honourable Committee Copies of Despatches from the officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf regarding the Location of the Detachment under Colonel Shirriff in the Island of Karrak, and the Communications held by Captain Hennell with the Governor of Bushire on the Subject.

The Measures adopted by Captain Hennell, and his Communication to the Governor of Bushire, relative to the Occupation of Karrak, are, in our Opinion, very judicious, and have met with our entire Approbation.

Copies of the above Despatches have been forwarded to the Governor General of India for his Lordship's Information.

The Despatches received by the Semiramis from the Persian Gulf not showing any Necessity for the Atalanta's proceeding to that Quarter at present, as announced in the Government Gazette of the 28th ultimo, we have determined to await the Receipt of further Intelligence from the Resident before deciding on the Despatch of that Steamer to Bushire.

We have, &c.

(Signed) J. FARISH.
G. W. ANDERSON.

No. 17.
The Bombay
Government to the
Secret Committee,
11th July 1838.

VII.

No. 18.
 Captain HENNELL
 to
 J. P. Willoughby,
 Esq.,
 25th June 1838.

No. 18.

Captain HENNELL to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 25th June 1838.

I WOULD respectfully suggest the extreme Expediency, under the present very unsettled and critical Posture of Affairs, that the Field Force should be forthwith reinforced by Four or at least Two Companies of Europeans, together with an additional Detail of Guns, Artillerymen, Ammunition, and Military Stores.

No. 19.

Captain HENNELL to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

(Extract.)

1st July 1838.

No. 19.
 Captain HENNELL
 to
 J. P. Willoughby,
 Esq.,
 1st July 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to report, for the Information of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, the Arrival at this Port of the Honourable Company's Brig of War Tigris on the 26th, and on the 29th ultimo that of the Sloop of War Elphinstone and Transport Tamerlane; which latter Vessel proceeded directly over to Karrak for the Purpose of landing the Troops, Stores, and Coals upon that Island.

On the 28th ultimo the Replies from the Shiraz Government to their Communications reporting the Arrival of the Field Force, and its Location upon the Island of Karrak, were received by the Authorities of this Place. From private Information I have Reason to believe that the Prince of Fars does not contemplate any immediate Movements of a hostile Character, but that it is his Intention to await the Receipt of Instructions from the Shah.

No. 20.

Captain HENNELL to Lieutenant Colonel SHIRRIFF.

(Extract.)

(No Date.)

No. 21.
 Captain HENNELL
 to
 Lieut. Col. Shirriff.

I HAVE the Honour to acquaint you that the Honourable Company's Steamer Hugh Lindsay now proceeds over to Karrak for the Purpose of receiving on board a Supply of Coals from the Tamerlane Transport, which passed this Port Yesterday Afternoon.

As far as I can learn, no Movements of a hostile Character consequent upon our Occupation of the Island of Karrak are at present contemplated by the Government of Shiraz; and as the Authorities here continue to exhibit the same friendly Conduct as before, the Service of the Detachment under the Command of Lieutenant Jackson, now on board the Hugh Lindsay, may be dispensed with for the present, particularly as the Crews and Marines of the Two Vessels of War, Elphinstone and Tigris, now in these Roads, are available in case of Necessity.

No. 21.

Captain HENNELL to Lieutenant Colonel SHIRRIFF.

No. 21.
 Captain HENNELL
 to
 Lieut. Col. Shirriff.

Sir,

It being advisable that the Marines* of the Honourable Company's Steamer Hugh Lindsay should remain attached to the Escort of the Bushire Residency for the present, may I request the Favour of your allowing that Vessel to be furnished with a Detail of the Marine Battalion from the Field Force under your Command, to act in the Place of the Party which has been landed here.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) S. HENNELL.

* Viz., 1 Havildar, 6 Privates.

VII.

No. 22.

The GOVERNOR in COUNCIL at BOMBAY to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

Bombay Castle, 14th July 1838.

WE have the Honour to transmit to your Honourable Committee Copies of Despatches this Day received from the officiating Resident in the Persian Gulf, conveying the latest Intelligence of Affairs in that Quarter.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

J. FARISH.

G. W. ANDERSON.

No. 22.

The Bombay Governor in Council to the Secret Committee, 14th July 1838.

No. 23.

Captain HENNELL to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 7th August 1838.

UP to the present Date, with the Exception of the Impediments thrown in the Way of the Transmission of Supplies to the Troops at Karrak and a few other petty Annoyances, no Exhibition of Hostility has been made by the Governor of Bushire or the Authorities of Fars.

No. 23.

Captain Hennell to J. P. Willoughby, Esq., 7th August 1838.

No. 24.

Captain HENNELL to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 11th August 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to acquaint you that this Evening I received Instructions from the Honourable the Governor in Council of Bombay, by the Atalanta Steamer, to apprise your Honourable Committee of the latest Intelligence which might be in my Possession regarding the State of Affairs in Persia, and more especially at Herat.

As it is necessary that the Atalanta should be immediately despatched to Bussorah in order to afford her Packets the slightest Chance of reaching Beirout in sufficient Time for the Steamer which leaves that Port on the 1st September, I have thought that the Instructions of the Government would be best carried into effect by the Transmission to your Honourable Committee of Copies of my last Despatches to Bombay.

No. 24.

Captain Hennell to the Secret Committee, 11th August 1838.

No. 25.

J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., to Captain HENNELL.

(Extract.)

Bombay Castle, 13th September 1838.

WITH reference to my Letter dated the 10th instant (No. 217.), I am directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to inform you that it has been deemed advisable to increase the Detail of Artillery to be sent to Karrak from Twelve to Twenty-four Men, and to send Two light Six Pounders with this Detachment.

I am at the same Time desired to inform you that the Reinforcement of Troops now sent to Karrak is chiefly intended, by having a Force there of a Character that will be respected, to prevent any Attempt to attack it, or if, notwithstanding your Representations and Remonstrances, should you have the Opportunity to offer them, such Attempt should be made, Lieutenant Colonel Shirriff may be enabled, with the Troops under his Command and the Vessels of War at the Station, to maintain Possession of the Island.

No. 25.

J. P. Willoughby, Esq., to Captain Hennell, 13th Sept. 1838.

VII.

No. 26.

No. 26.
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq., to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
13th Sept. 1838.

J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

Sir,

Bombay Castle, 13th September 1838.

WITH reference to my Letter dated the 10th instant, I am directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to transmit to you, for Submission to the Right Honourable the Governor General of India, an Extract from the Proceedings of this Government regarding an Increase to the Detail of Artillery proceeding to Karrak, and the Instructions this Day issued to the Resident at Bushire, explaining to him the Object of the Measure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. WILLOUGHBY.

No. 27.

J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., to W. H. MACNAGHTEN, Esq.

No. 27.
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq., to the
Secretary with the
Governor General,
27th Sept. 1838.

(Extract.)

Bombay Castle, 27th September 1838.

I AM directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, dated the 3d instant, relative to the sending to the Island of Karrak a Reinforcement of Troops of the Nature indicated by Colonel Shirriff, and in reply to refer you to my Communications dated the 5th inst. (No. 197.) and the 30th ult. (No. 163.), from which the Right Honourable the Governor General of India will have learnt that this Government has anticipated his Lordship's Instructions.

No. 28.

Captain HENNELL to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

No. 28.
Captain Hennell
to the
Secret Committee,
26th Oct. 1838.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 26th October 1838.

I HAVE now the Honour to report that from the Date of my last Communication until the present Time Affairs in this Quarter have remained perfectly tranquil, and every thing has gone on in its usual Routine, excepting that the Exportation to Karrak of Rice and Wheat from this Port is strictly prohibited.

The Intercourse between Meerza Abbas, the Governor of Bushire, and the British Residency continues of a polite and even friendly Character. The Subject of the Field Detachment at Karrak is never alluded to either by the Shiraz Government or the local Authorities. To the present Date no Symptom of Hostility has been exhibited, nor has any Attempt been made to garrison the Town.

The Climate of the Island of Karrak has been found exceedingly salubrious by the Troops located there; although exposed to the powerful Heat of a Gulf Summer under Canvass they have never had more than from Three to Five Individuals sick in the Hospital, while in a Space of upwards of Four Months not a single Casualty has occurred.

No. 29.

Captain HENNELL to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

No. 29.
Captain Hennell
to the
Secret Committee,
27th Oct. 1838.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 27th October 1838.

I HAVE the Honour to report, for the Information of your Honourable Committee, that since closing my Letter in this Department of Yesterday's Date I have received a Communication from Lieutenant Colonel Shirriff, the Commanding Officer of the Force at Karrak, acquainting me with the Arrival there of the Merchant Ship Ernaad, having on board 300 European Troops and Twenty-four Artillerymen, as a Reinforcement to the Field Detachment located upon that Island.

No. 30.

Captain HENNELL to J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq.

(Extract.)

Bushire, 29th October 1838.

THE Government will have been made aware, from my former Communications, that Sheik Nasir, the late Governor of Bushire, on taking Flight (under the Impression that Meerza Abbas, the present Ruler, had been despatched for the Purpose of seizing and sending him a Prisoner to Shiraz) took refuge on that Island, which has always been looked upon as the Stronghold of the Family.

At the Period when the Field Detachment under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Shirriff arrived in the Gulf that Island was in Possession of Sheik Nasir; and with reference to the peculiar Circumstances under which the Force was sent up I judged it expedient to land the Troops rather as Friends than as Enemies, consequently I have not hitherto interfered with the local Government of the Place either by taking possession of the Defences of the Town and small Star Fort (now occupied by the Sheik and his few Followers), or assuming any Authority over the native Inhabitants.

VII.

No. 30.

Captain Hennell
to
J. P. Willoughby,
Esq.,
29th Oct. 1838.

No. 31.

J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., to Captain HENNELL.

(Extract.)

Bombay Castle, 5th December 1838.

I AM directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter dated the 29th October last, and to acquaint you that the Information therein contained regarding the Island of Karrak, now occupied by the British Troops, is satisfactory.

With reference to your Letter, I am desired to inform you that the necessary Orders will be issued from the Military Department for sending the requisite Supply of Provisions for the Troops at Karrak.

No. 31.

J. P. Willoughby,
Esq., to
Captain Hennell,
5th Dec. 1838.

No. 32.

The GOVERNOR in COUNCIL at BOMBAY to the SECRET COMMITTEE.

Honourable Sirs,

Bombay Castle, 5th December 1838.

WE have the Honour to forward for the Information of your Honourable Committee the accompanying Copy of a Report from the Resident in the Persian Gulf, dated the 29th October last, regarding the Island of Karrak, now occupied by the British Troops, which in our Opinion is very satisfactory.

Copy of the Reply which we caused to be returned to the Resident is herewith enclosed; and we hope that our Instructions to that Officer will meet your Honourable Committee's Approbation.

We have, &c.

(Signed)

JAMES FARISH.
G. W. ANDERSON.
J. A. DUNLOP.

No. 32.

The Bombay Governor in Council
to the
Secret Committee,
5th Dec. 1838.

India Board,
26th March 1839.

JOHN HOBHOUSE.

22 AA 22

OCCUPATION OF KARRAK

Indian Papers,
Nos IV. V. VI. VII.

VII.

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

AFFGHANISTAN

AND THE

OCCUPATION OF KARRAK.

(Presented by Her Majesty's Command.)

Ordered to be printed 26th March 1839.

Indian papers correspondence relating to Affghanistan and the occupation
of Harrak ; ordered to be printed 26 March 1839

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